FIRST EDITION

NIAGARA NEWS

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NIAGARA COLLEGE of Applied Arts and Technology
WELLAND CAMPUS
LEARNING RESOURCE CENTRE

Students elect Chase new SAC president

By ADAM KIESWETTER
Staff Writer

A 20-year-old Journalism-Print program student is the new president of Niagara College's Student Administrative Council (SAC).

Jason Chase, of St. Catharines, defeated two other students for the position.

SAC elections for a new president and vice-president athletics were held March 26.

There are 4,618 full-time, 104 co-op, and 317 part-time students at Niagara. Of the 3,651 full-time students at the Welland campus, 134 students voted.

Chase received 59 votes, while Willy Noiles, 30, a post-diploma Public Relations program student, got 55 votes, and Luc K. Labrecque, 21, a second-year Broadcast-Radio, Television and Film program student, got 20 votes.

Kyle Anderson, 19, a first-year Electronics Engineering Technology program student, is the new vice-president in charge of athletics.

He is currently SAC's vice-president internal, and will be replacing Amanda Cheevers, a first-year Visual and Creative Art Design program student.

Anderson got 70 votes, while David Shane Walton, 22, a first-year Recreational Leadership program student, and Joe Habib, 22, a first-year January-Start Correctional Worker program student, got 30 votes each.

During the election speeches on March 21, Chase said he plans to use "hard work, dedication, and compassion," to give students the kind of leadership he thinks they need.

He said one of the main problems he hopes he can improve upon is the lack of communication between SAC and the students, particularily with the satellite campuses.

He said he plans to examine how effectively the $131 SAC student activity fee is being spent and the validity of the student council honorarium system.

'...Hard work, dedication, and compassion...' — Chase

Currently, executive members of SAC are required to work at least 10 hours a week and receive an honorarium every two weeks.

The president receives $170 and all other executive members receive $140.

Chase said perhaps increasing the number of hours required by SAC to earn the honorarium might be an effective cost-cutting measure.

Chase will be replacing outgoing SAC President Bren Biggs, who will be graduating from the Recreational Leadership program this year.

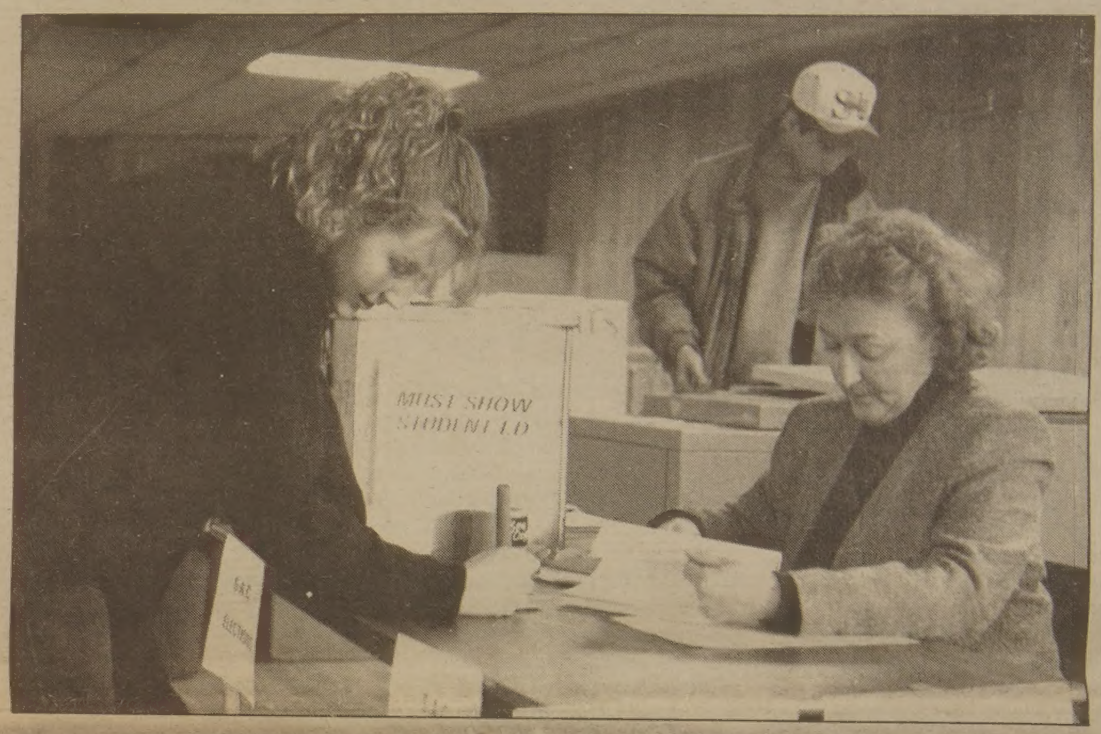
Only full-time students were eligible to vote and were required to produce either their student card or timetable in order to do so.

Only 146 students voted.

The vote at the satellite campuses was poor. There were only 11 votes at the Mack Nursing Education Centre in St. Catharines (eight votes for Noiles and three for Chase), and one for Noiles at the St. Catharines Welland Vale campus.

The Hospitality and Tourism Centre in Niagara Falls and the Horticulture Centre in St. Catharines both reported no votes.

Meanwhile, Noiles is pressing for a formal college tribunal that would investigate procedures of the election. He said information pertaining to the time and whereabouts of the elections at the satellite campuses was not sufficiently provided.



First-year Journalism-Print program student, Jen Gibson, 19, casts her ballot for SAC elections.
Photo by Adam Kieswetter

OSAP changes coming

By JEFF GARRETT
Staff Writer

Final changes to the Ontario Students Assistance Program (OSAP) are expected to be determined at an annual conference set for April 9, 10 and 11.

The meeting is for the Ontario Association of Financial Aid Administrators at Carleton Place in Toronto.

"Due to the fact of major changes in OSAP, the Ministry of Education and training students awards branch was going to meet with the group for a portion of the conference to discuss in detail the changes and procedures for the '96/'97 application process," said Elaine Grandmaison, Niagara College's associate registrar.

The financial aid office is aware that once again student and parental assets, excluding their house, will be assessed to determine the amount received by students.

The federal government tried this process once before, but it didn't work. The federal government is again responsible for this idea.

The term "harmonizing" is another word the federal government is using to try to get the provincial government to work with them on the new OSAP procedures.

"Students get upset and blame financial aid," said Grandmaison. "But we're always trying to do our best for the students, and a lot of them are quite appreciative for what we do for them."

The current Ontario Public Service Employee Union (OPSEU) strike can pose a problem for the upcoming meeting.

"Now that the strike is on, it's difficult to determine what sort of representation the ministry will have," said Grandmaison.

Final details on OSAP changes will be available after the conference.

Dental program to be tuition funded

By JAMES M. COOTE
Staff Writer

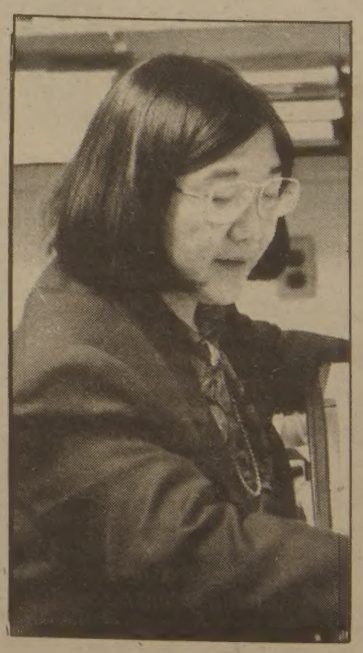
It's a tuition hike of a different sort.

The Niagara College Board of Governors passed a resolution for the Allied Dental Health programs to become fully tuition funded on Feb. 29.

Because of funding cuts to Ontario colleges and universities and the high cost of these programs, the college had the option to close the programs or find an alternate funding solution. So, the tuition is being raised from $2,000 to $8,890 a year.

Along with the re-organization of funding, the one-year Dental Assistant program will be upgraded to the Intraoral Dental Assisting program.

This upgrade is designed to "allow students to prepare for the full range of procedures anticipated to be legislated in Ontario," says a memo sent out to the applicants of the programs.



CAROLE ONO

"The Council on Dental Accreditation has confirmed that Niagara College may apply for accreditation of its Intraoral Dental Assistant program (Level 2) in 1997," says the memo.

In past years, acceptance into the Dental Hygiene program was based on the student's grades in the Dental Assistant program, but now the Dental Hygiene program will be changed to a direct-entry two-year program and acceptance will be based on high school grades.

However, the changes have upset many of the graduating dental assistant students.

Karen Funk, 20, of Beamsville, will be graduating from the Dental Assistant program this year.

(Continued on Page 2)

Higher education requires self-direction

By ADAM KIESWETTER
Staff Writer

For many students, the equation seems pretty simple: high education equals a high-paying job.

Many students seek post-secondary education under the assumption it will eventually pay off and land them a high-paying job in a field directly related to their studies.

But with increasing tuition and statistics to prove otherwise, some students are becoming increasingly skeptical about their education and of what exactly it will provide for them in terms of dollars and cents.

Jennifer Andres, 20, of St. Catharines, a second-year Human Relations program student at Niagara College, said she attends the college mainly to "get a good job."

"I really want to be a cop, but I know I'm in the wrong program for that," she said. "I was thinking of going to university but the tuition was too high."

Andres receives financial aid from the Ontario Student Assistance Program (OSAP) and also works part time as a waitress.

She said she expected a lot more out of the two-year program. "It's too self-directed, and very repetitive.

"The college itself is very unorganized in regards to the staff," she said. "Some tell you one thing and others tell you another. Everyone's clucking about like a bunch of chickens and none of them really know what's going on."

She said the college should keep the staff better informed about school procedure and with what's going on in general ". . . so that when you get answers, they're consistent."

She said she doesn't believe university can prepare students for the working world any better than college, but does recognize the difference.

"If you want more theory then you go to university, but to apply those theories you go to college," she said. "Mind you I'm not close minded, I don't want to let my negative experience with one form of education close me off from all the rest."

She said she would advise any future students to know exactly what they want before they jump into the idea of going to school.

"Take a year off if you have to and work, but just make sure you know what you really want to do," she said.

College students aren't the only ones feeling disillusionment with their education.

Greg Bruckner, 22, of St. Catharines, is studying to attain his bachelor of science in environmental policy with a co-major in biology at Brock University in St. Catharines.

He said he was first attracted to the title of the program, which was Urban Environmental Studies when he registered, because it suggested environmental planning, but that with the changing of the title some conceptual changes in regards to the course's content were also evident.

"The biology aspect is mostly logical in its progression," he said. "But with the environmental policy, most things are conceptual and based on the opinion of the professor. There's a real bias in how you're being taught.

"Considering that environmental policy has been changing according to the whims of the government or private organizations, and realizing that the media is also biased in its reporting of this information, plus the biased concepts of the professor. . . I think we definitely should be presented with more fact than concept."

Although he said he thinks college gives students a more practical learning and realistic outlook he does see it as "more of an extension of high school.

College students are not only offered a diploma, but also more of an opportunity to gain public experience.

"University prepares you to get your masters or doctorate in that subject, in order for you to come to teach university students," he said.

Many floundering students seem to be opting for both forms of education in an attempt to zero in on a job in their particular field, said Bruckner.

"I know one of the technological teachers at Niagara College. He's got about 77 students in his class and over a third of them have a degree, now they're all looking for the practical experience."

Bruckner, on OSAP, is a supervisor with Sportex Service Company in St. Catharines as well as a director in a local environmental company in St. Catharines. He runs his own graphic design business, Logopolis, from his residence.

He said he hopes one day to work as an environmental consultant for a private company or the government.

He said he recommends to future students that they really know what they want to get out of their education and their program. "If there are even the slightest doubts, forget it."

Overcoming the social stigma associated with attending university and focusing in on what is most beneficial for the individual is one important lesson that isn't in any high school lesson plan.

It took Iain Smith, 23, of Beamsville, a first-year Computer Engineering and Technology program student at Niagara, two years in university before he realized college was the place to best suit his needs.

"University is all theory, I learned more in my first semester of college than I did the whole time I was at university," she said. "College gives you the theories, and then helps you apply those theories to everything else."

Smith was in physics at Brock University before switching to Niagara, and received only two exemptions from the college.

He said although the quality and usefulness of the education is in many ways superior to that in university, the college atmosphere itself leaves much to be desired.

"The college is a dungeon," he said. "It's dark, it's depressing, and half the lights don't work.

"The parking here isn't very useful, everyone has to pay for parking. It was good at Brock where if you didn't want to pay, there was always free parking within a reasonable walking distance."

Smith, on OSAP, works part time at Jumbo Video in St. Catharines, and helps with his father's company, Foamatic Inc. in St. Catharines.

He said he hopes to one day work with some sort of electronics company like Bell Canada or IBM, building, repairing or troubleshooting various electronics systems.

One of the most alluring qualities of college is not only the practical style of learning, but the fact that his program, not unlike most college programs, offers a paid co-op, he said.

"University gives you no chance whatsoever of getting a job, no matter what they tell you," he said. "They just don't tell you what you need to get a job. They may point you in the right direction, but you're basically on your own."

He said in college students are not only offered a diploma, but also more of an opportunity to gain some practical experience because of co-op placements outside of the college.

Smith said he would recommend to students they form a solid plan *and really know what they want to* do before they get started.

"If somebody tells you that you need university to get a job, just laugh in their face," he said. "You do what's best for you. . . college is not a joke."

Students concerned about tuition

(Continued from Page 1)

She said emphatically she was not returning. "I would rather just upgrade to expanded duties because hygienist wages are coming down anyway."

"I am not coming back because I'm not going through a two-year program when I can go to another school and do it in one at a cheaper cost," said Stephanie Moore, 19, from Tillsonburg, another dental assistant student.

Anya Staszko, 20, of St. Catharines, agrees. "The costs are just way too outrageous. Hygiene would put me in debt."

Dental assistant students, from left, Stephanie Moore and Karen Funk said they might not return to the college next year because an of increase in tuition.

Photo by James M. Coote

In spite of these sentiments, Carole Ono, program co-ordinator, remains confident there will be sufficient enrolment. "I have received 20 to 30 calls a day and only two callers indicated that they couldn't come because of tuition hikes."

Ono has reason for her confidence.

A Niagara College graduate placement statistics pamphlet, outlining the employment status of 1993 and 1994 graduates, states 58 per cent of the dental assistant students are employed in a related field and making from $13,000 to $26,000 a year.

Ninety-two per cent of the graduates of the Dental Hygiene program — those who went on for the two more years — are employed in a related field and are making from $39,000 to $60,000 a year.

"While things look negative, you can see the silver lining," said Ono. "The positive side that comes from situations like this is that it allows you to make changes that should have been made a long time ago . . . changes to bring us into the 21st century."

New faces elected to council

By GRETTA ROSSI
Staff Writer

Students at Niagara College's Hospitality and Tourism Centre elected new members to council's ranks recently.

They are: President Sarah Penney, Hotel and Restaurant Administration (Co-op); Vice-President Kelly Misener, Hotel and Restaurant Administration (Co-op); Treasurer Barb Tarr, Hotel and Restaurant Administration (Co-op).

Social Convener Andrew Hall, Tourism-Tours and Attractions (Co-op); Secretary Jennifer Grinwis, Hotel and Restaurant Administration (Co-op); Adviser Ian Skilling, Hotel and Restaurant Administration (Co-op) and Staff Adviser Domenic Trimboli, counsellor.

THE WORLD

Niagara making it easier for international students

By RICHARD MANCUSO
Staff Writer

Becoming an international student is a long and difficult process but Niagara College tries to make it an easy and memorable experience.

Foreign students who wish to study English at Niagara must begin a long process of paperwork in their own country.

This paperwork, which includes a student visa and a letter of acceptance into the English as a Second Language program (ESL), starts seven months to a year in advance.

International students must apply to the program they want to study, just like any other student. First the foreign student will receive a letter of acceptance from Niagara College and a receipt for the tuition deposit ($100 Canadian).

The students then take the letter of acceptance to the Canadian Embassy and apply for a student visa. The students must prove they have enough money to support themselves in Canada because the government does not give financial aid to international students.

Canada's guideline requires students to have $10,000 to $15,000 plus tuition ($10,200 for three terms of ESL), plus books and airfare.

The students must prove they have sufficient ties to return home, and they must have a medical examination. The processing of the student visa takes the longest amount of time, up to three months in most countries.

Meanwhile, Niagara College officials try to help as much as they can. The International Education office will find lodgings for the students during their stay through the Niagara College Home Stay program.

The Home Stay program finds a family living close to the college, five to 20 minutes away, and arranges for the student to live there during the school year.

The Home Stay family becomes the student's Canadian family, and the family members are expected to treat the student as they would their own children.

Niagara College sends the student information about the Home Stay family about four weeks before the term begins. The student and the Home Stay family are encouraged to write to each other before the student arrives.

If the student wants to be picked up at the airport, the student must send the flight information to the International Education office. An agent of the office will be sent to greet the students upon arrival.

"Imagine yourself flying into Tokyo and trying to get somewhere if you speak very little Japanese," says Sean Coote, Niagara's international student adviser.

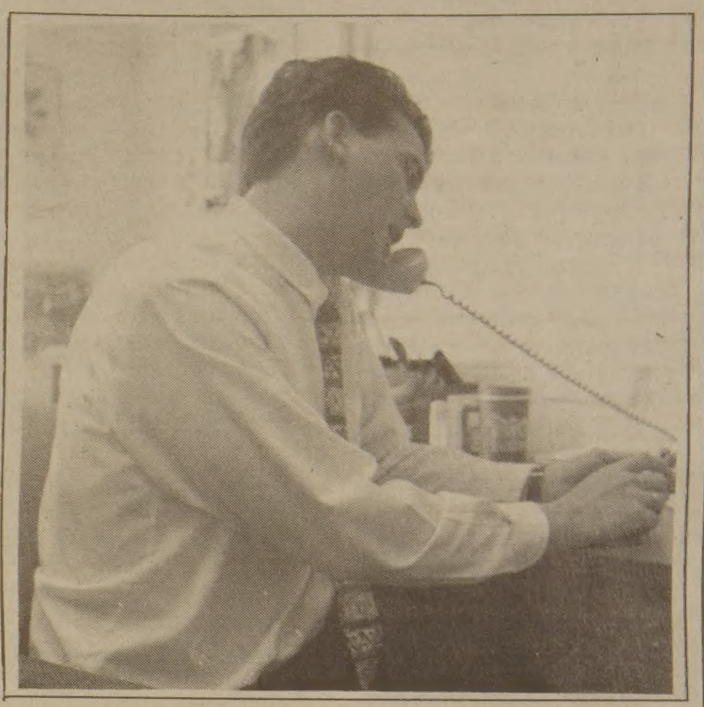
"We try to make it as easy for them to come here as possible by providing them with services. That makes it easier for them to understand."

The spring term for ESL begins May 6 and finishes Aug. 23. Niagara will get about 20 new students in the program this term. The figure is an increase from last year, says Coote.

The 20 students will be coming here from Saudi Arabia, Korea, Indonesia, Japan, Macedonia, Thailand and Nigeria. There are also students returning from Taiwan, Libya and Yemen.

"The department is busy making preparations for students' arrivals and making sure that their first impression is a pleasant and lasting one so they will continue their studies at Niagara College," says Coote.

Working with the world



Sean Coote is Niagara College's international student adviser.

Photo by James M. Coote

'I'm the Canadian way, that's what I do.'

By JAMES M. COOTE
Staff Writer

Niagara College's international student adviser is one of the youngest staff members at the Welland campus.

In May 1994, Sean Coote, 22, began working for the college to fulfil his co-op requirements in business administration. He was given the task of organizing the necessary logistics for 85 students from three different countries.

By July 1994, he was placed in his current position and "worked hard" to keep it through his final semester of school. "My hard work has paid off," said Coote.

For almost two years, he has been working with students from around the world, trying to make them feel at home in Canada. "I'm the Canadian way, that's what I do."

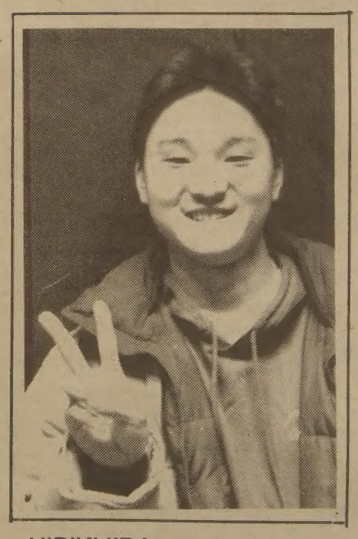
The 7 a.m. telephone calls to Taiwan are just part of getting the job done any way he can within the limits of a sketchy agenda. Coote works 35 "very" flexible hours a week and "volunteers" much of his time to help keep things running as smoothly as possible. He said his work is not complete even when he is finished the paperwork required to get the students into the classroom.

When six international students came back from an expensive trip to Algonquin Provincial Park with three measly fish, Coote decided to lend a hand and arranged a local, chartered fishing trip at a much lower cost than the trip north. And this trip guaranteed fish. He said "helping the students any way I can is not only part of my job, it is my job. I will go out of my way whenever possible to ensure that my students are happy because, let's face it, a happy student is a returning student."

'helping the students anyway I can is not only part of my job, it is my job...'

Coote interacts with people from all corners of the world. He said he feels rewarded by the energy and accomplishments of the students he works with.

Learning, the Canadian way



HIBIKI IIDA
Photo by Jennifer Harding

Learning to drive and hotdogs, the Canadian way

By JENNIFER HARDING
Staff Writer

All Canadians like hotdogs.

This was Hibiki Iida's first impression of Canada.

The 21-year-old native of Yokohama, Japan, said last summer, his host-mother in the Home Stay program served hotdogs five days a week for dinner.

Luckily, he said, he loves hotdogs.

Iida came to Canada in 1993 with hopes of learning English.

He said he could not study English well in Japan because he would go home and speak Japanese. In Canada, he has to speak English all the time.

"When I think of the U.S.A., I think of danger," Iida said, but added "not the whole place." That is why he chose to study in Canada.

He said the United States makes him think of guns.

"Canada is a (safe) place," he said, adding he chose Canada over Australia or Britain because the accent in Canada is "clean."

When Iida first arrived in Canada, he attended the Canadian International College (CIC) in Nelson, B.C. After one year, he continued at the CIC in Vancouver.

Iida came to Welland and began attending Niagara College in 1995. He is enrolled in the English as a Second Language program.

He said he finds English grammar easy but listening is difficult for him.

In one of his classes, he has to listen to music and write down the words to the songs.

"It's a good way for listening."

Iida said he is enjoying his time at the college because he can talk to Canadians.

He does have one complaint, though.

"Cafeteria food is expensive."

Although he misses Japan, Iida said that he "almost" likes Canada.

He said he likes everything but the weather, which makes driving difficult in the winter.

Driving has become an important aspect of Canada to Iida.

He got his first driver's licence here. He said he learned to drive in Vancouver because it is "very cheap." In Japan, it costs about $3,000 to get a driver's licence, so Iida could not afford it.

In Canada, he said, it only cost about $250.

Iida said the thing he misses most about Japan is the food. His favorite dish in Japan is sushi.

He has been home three times to visit his family since coming to Canada, but said that it is "very" expensive.

"Whenever I go back to Japan, my parents go hungry," he said, laughing.

"I appreciate my parents because they supported, for me, everything."

Iida said learning English is difficult, but he is "getting better."

It is important for foreign students to keep faith, he said, adding, he would tell them "don't give up until they get their goal."

NIAGARA COLLEGE CANADA

Canada

SPOTLIGHT

A fond farewell to Schleich

By JENNIFER HARDING
Staff Writer

Niagara College said goodbye to one of its biggest fans at the end of February.

David Schleich, vice-president, academic, left to become president of the Canadian College of Naturopathic Medicine in Etobicoke.

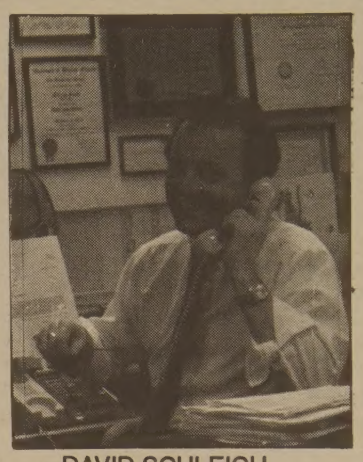
He said last year many opportunities came his way, including numerous college presidencies and private-sector jobs. He said he made the choice that was best for him.

Schleich said he has a long history of relationships with the complementary/alternative medical community.

"When you make a choice, however positive and exciting, there is frequently a downside, and for me the downside was leaving a remarkable college which has a special, bright future. Leaving also meant saying goodbye to the best colleagues I've ever had."

Schleich, 48, spent five years at the college, all of those as vice-president. During those years, he said, he saw a lot of changes.

"We realigned and redesigned human and physical resources to meet the remarkable challenges of the last five years — new programs, new systems, improved information technology, a new campus on the horizon and strong linkages provincially.



DAVID SCHLEICH

"I know the college system really well," Schleich said, "and Niagara College is a jewel, a special college with a unique blend of people and programs."

Schleich said he is proud of the many projects he was involved with while vice-president.

"We were able to introduce new programs at a time when we had no resources," he said, adding he is proud of the smooth transition of the French-language programs the college used to run to the new francophone college, College des Grands Lacs in Welland.

Schleich said he is "excited" about the challenge of his new position. He is preparing for a tour of the Canadian College of Naturopathic Medicine's partner schools in the United States, Europe, Australia and the Far East.

He said he thinks Niagara has a "bright future," and that it has the "best education and training programs in the peninsula for full-time and part-time learners." He added, "The new president, Dan Patterson, understands the metamorphosing needs of learners, both traditional and non-traditional learners; his entrepreneurial flair will carry the college to great successes."

Schleich said leaving Niagara was tough, but it was a positive move. "It was especially difficult to leave my colleagues, the other VPs (vice-presidents). We worked so well together for so long."

The college had a farewell social for Schleich on March 27.

"Niagara College is a place where I belonged. Evidence of that is not only in the lifelong friendships which have grown here, but also in this reality: nobody laughed at my button collection or my Pepsi collection.

"When a vice-president can have a button collection and Pepsi collection that seems a normal part of his office decoration, that's a welcoming atmosphere."

Introducing Mr. Boutin

By MELISSA LABBE
Staff Writer

A Niagara College teacher says he thinks the college community is "a good group of people."

Rick Boutin, of St. Catharines, teaches two social deviance and one relationship choices classes at the college. He was hired on a part-time basis to take over Nancy Taylor's classes since she is away on sick leave. Although Boutin would not tell his age, he did say his birthday is March 5.

Boutin says it was "a fluke" (timing wise) that he got this job. He was on the verge of taking another job when he received a call from the college. "On Thursday, I got the call. Friday I came in for an interview and on Monday, I started."

Boutin says he became interested in sociology in university. Originally he went to pursue child studies which involves a lot of psychology. He says he prefers sociology to psychology.

"Taking sociology made more sense in understanding the lives of people around me,"he says, adding that psychology "can sometimes be too individualistic and looks at people in a vacuum."

Boutin graduated from George Brown College in Toronto with a diploma in business (majoring in marketing). After that he earned an honor's degree in sociology at Brock University in St. Catharines.

Boutin has had a career related to the sociology field. He was appointed to the Ontario Board of Parole, was a teacher's assistant at Brock University and a housing mediator at Community Recreation and Action Centre (CRAC). While at CRAC, he did a lot of public speaking at Youth & Community Employment Service and Job Finding Club.

Boutin favors the 3 R's

He says meeting people and talking about important social issues are some of the aspects he says he likes about his teaching job.

He says there should be more of the three Rs (reading, writing and arithmetic) taught in elementary and high schools to better prepare students for college.

"Teachers are expected to be parents, sisters, brothers, counsellors and priests."

Referring to his social deviance class, Boutin says he dislikes the term *deviance*. "It implies certain groups of people are socially unacceptable. *Alternative lifestyle* is a better term."

Outside of work, Boutin spends time walking, reading, collecting miniature cars, and playing with his cat, Nadia, and dog, Buffy.

Asked if he could be any person, living or dead, Boutin had a hard time deciding on a specific person. "It would be a responsible hedonist who is a social activist and is influential in helping people."

Teacher given rave reviews by students

By KELLY VERDENHALVEN
Staff Writer

A Niagara College professor gets an "A" for her teaching methods.

The walls of Niagara have ears and they picked up great reviews for Karen Moreau-Petti, 41, of Fonthill. The mother of two girls, ages 11 and 9, and a boy, 6, receives respect from the students.

Moreau-Petti got her education at Brock University in St. Catharines and then attended the College of Education in a different section of Brock for her teaching degree.

She started teaching at the public school level and got her teaching certificate after being in London for one year teaching Grades 1 and 2.

Moreau-Petti became a teacher because of her interest in school growing up and her mother being a teacher. "It's in the genes, I guess."

She started at Niagara in 1980 and says she never went back to public school because she loves it here. However, she says she doesn't love the computer she is expected to work on.

"I feel I lose respect when I hand the students a disgusting exam," says Moreau-Petti pointing out faded test questions. "How are the kids supposed to read it?"

She says she never gets bored with the variety of subjects she teaches, including politics, law, history and anthropology.

Her children know that after 8 p.m. it's bedtime and her time to do homework. In the summer she spends the first two weeks sitting by the pool and reading, she says. "I've read some books three or four times." Her busy schedule even has time for a computer course at night.

Moreau-Petti is "not impressed" with Niagara College being caught up in the hiring of part-time teachers instead of full time. "They are paid less, but it's hard on the students because they have never taught before."

She says she is angry about the 15 per cent increase in tuition because "the college has more money coming in but the class sizes may get larger. The students aren't going to benefit at all, it really annoys me."

Moreau-Petti has a strong opinion about Ontario Premier Mike Harris and the Ontario Public Service Employees Union. She says Harris isn't listening and the people on strike really have no effect.

"It's tragic because the people were given the right to strike as a way to be heard. They're almost losing that right."

Moreau-Petti has a "unique teaching method," says Jamie Schuman, 19, from Welland, a first-year student in the Law and Security Administration program.

"She is a very vocal teacher. I learn a lot in her classes," says Schuman.

Melaine Kuronen, 19, from Welland, a first-year student in the General Arts and Science program, says repeating the material 20 times is a guaranteed way to learn. She says the exams are "very fair" because everything is from her notes.

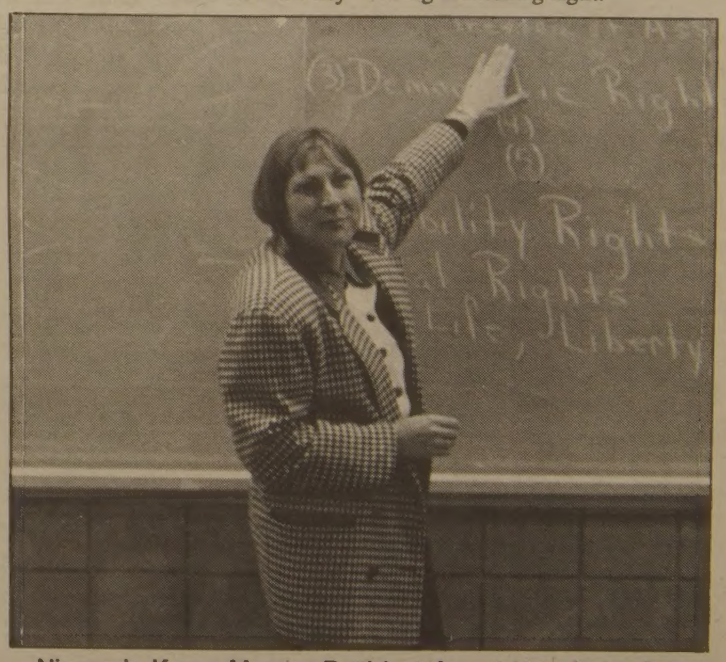
"She makes politics easy to learn," says Heather Burton, 19, from St. Catharines, a Journalism-Print program student. "Who would have thought the constitution could be made fun."

Burton says she "really" likes that Moreau-Petti recognizes her students in the hall.

Moreau-Petti says over the years she picked up what methods work, and what don't. She says she listens to the students and vows never to be one of those teachers who students never learn anything from. "You tend to learn a certain style."

She says her research is current because she works her "butt off" and doesn't rely on a textbook. "I write all the exams and all my teaching material is from my research."

Moreau-Petti says she will continue to teach the way she does because it feels right. "I've never had any complaints so I must be doing something right."



Niagara's Karen Moreau-Petti is acknowledged by her students for her 'unique' teaching methods.
Photo by Kelly Verdenhalven

SPOTLIGHT

Biggs spills beans about herself and SAC

By ADAM KIESWETTER
Staff Writer

If you've got a bone to pick with Student Administative Council (SAC), then Bren Biggs is always willing to lend an ear.

Biggs, 25, is Niagara College's SAC president.

She is a full-time student and works part time at Commisso's Food Terminal in Beamsville, as well as in the dietary department of the West Lincoln Memorial Hospital in Grimsby.

The Grimsby resident attained a bachelor of arts in political science at the University of Western Ontario in London, Ont., and is in her second year of the Recreational Leadership program at Niagara College.

Biggs says she feels her university experience has helped her to learn a lot about herself.

"I think that I found myself to be very rational, logical, and analytical. The more emotional qualities of my personality weren't getting utilized. I want to carry over and bring out those other aspects of my personality in my chosen career."

She says she chose college for these and for more practical reasons, and was attracted to her program because of the variety of career opportunities it can lead to.

She says her class is only the second intake of students to enter the program and that because the program is still so young, it is experiencing a number of "growing pains."

"I really enjoy it," she says. "There are lots of things we find difficult now that we'll work through.The faculty and students are really learning from one another."

She says ideally she would like to work with seniors in therapeutic recreation.

"I like working with people. Seniors can tell you so much, even when they're saying little at all, if you really listen."

She says she thinks that the effectiveness of college has been underestimated in the past and that students are now starting to realize its potential as opposed to what's offered by university.

'. . .I found myself to be very rational, logical, and analytical.'

"University is very self-directed to the point where you work independently and can quietly go along unnoticed," she says. "With college there's more emphasis on individual progress. You have more constant demands, you have more deadlines to meet, and you're under constant pressure. I think there are a lot of marketable qualities in college students that employers are looking for."

Along with a growing appreciation for the college, Biggs says she feels the reputation of Niagara College has also improved. "Its name is held a little higher than it used to be," she says.

Starting in September 1994, Biggs began her ascent of the student government ladder by becoming a student representative. She was elected by the executive members of SAC to fill a vacant seat in the executive in October and from there moved to the position of executive vice-president in November, where she remained until the resignation of former SAC president Jason Graham. She then assumed the position of SAC president for the remainder of the school year and was formally elected to office in April 1995.

Although she had had no previous experience on a student council, she says she did sit on some different student committees while she was at university.

"When I got to college, I wanted to get involved with politics, and I thought that a post-secondary background would put me in a position to help with those responsibilities," says Biggs. "I thought that because of that and my life experience, I had a lot to offer and that I could use it to work for the students."

BREN BIGGS

Biggs says she views her position as a challenge and feels she is always learning from it. She says she tries to be extremely optimistic with people or problems.

"You have to focus that positive energy in yourself and work to make others feel good about themselves."

Biggs says she believes there's always room for improvement, but that being alert to others' perspectives is a must.

"The way I like to deal with people is to respect and try to get an understanding of their position . . . you don't have to agree, but you have to be able to listen and respect their feelings. More often than not, feelings and emotions are the things that get trampled on," she says. "If you just try to bat them over the head with your ideas, they just won't accept or listen to it.

"I've learned that it's OK to make mistakes as long as I see what I've done wrong and try not to let it happen again."

Biggs says she wants to encourage students to voice their constructive input and tell SAC exactly what their concerns are.

"Come in and let us know where you disagree with us. We're not some ambiguous see-all and hear-all group. We need to get that interaction happening," she says. "If it's something that concerns you, then it's important."

Biggs says that, for example, she thinks it's "great" that students are speaking their minds in the form of letters to the editor in the Niagara News concerning the new technology fee. But she would like them to take it a step further.

'Once you give the money . . .you lose control of where it's going.'

"If you feel your opinion is strong enough to write an opinion piece to the paper, then come in and talk to us. Be strong enough to follow it up. Know what's going on."

Biggs says she feels that SAC is fulfilling an essential obligation to students with the creation of the new technology fee, which is slated to take effect this September.

"You have to look at where technology is taking us," she says. "The more exposure you can have the better, so I believe education has a fundamental responsibility to expose us to it.

"If you were to go into some of the high schools, you would see they've got better technology than what we can offer here. I think that the technology fee and the way we've done it will provide a lot of resources for students that they currently don't have."

She says she feels that the better acquainted students become with technology, the better it is for everyone because when students leave, their knowledge and performance is a reflection upon the college.

Biggs says that even with the new fee, it will still take years for the college to "get up to par" and that the college just isn't getting the kind of financial support it needs to provide the technology.

She says an important thing to remember about the fee is that since it's the students' money that will be buying the technology, it will first and foremost be used to serve the needs of the students.

"Once you give the money to the college, then you lose control of where it's going," she says. "This is the students' money. It's something that stands alone, for a specific purpose.

"We do have financial obligations we've put forth," she says. "By implementing the technology fee, it doesn't restrict us to things that we're already obligated to."

Biggs says that rumors of SAC having a "surplus" of money left over from the student activity fee are inaccurate.

"Some of SAC's budget was going into covering After Hours because it was still experiencing growing pains and not yet producing revenue, so now we have this money to put back into our budget and into other resources and investment obligations."

Biggs says she thinks it's good that students want to be aware of what's going on with their money.

"A lot depends on the perspective you're sitting in," she says. "You have to reflect on things and conceptualize what's going on. At the moment it may seem like the wrong thing to do, but upon reflection you see how it fits together."

Thorold mayor pulls double duty

By JANICE POOLE
Staff Writer

The politics of education.

Mal Woodhouse, 49, is the director of physical resources at Niagara College in Welland and the mayor of Thorold.

His political career began after 10 years as a volunteer firefighter. In 1978, he became an alderman. In 1985, he was elected to the Police Services Board and Niagara Regional Council. In 1994, he was elected mayor.

He graduated from Niagara College in the Labor Management Resources program in 1987. While being a regional councillor, he completed this five-year diploma program at night school.

He has been employed at the college since October 1990.

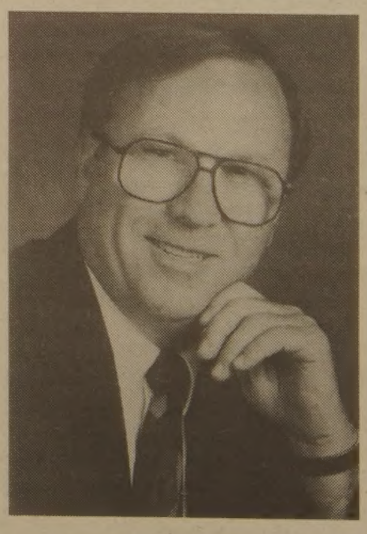
"I have held a number of positions since that time and I've enjoyed all of those positions."

Problems only arise when Niagara College wants to buy regional property or borrow money. In both cases, he must by law declare a "conflict of interest."

"I appreciate Niagara College supporting me in my mayoralty duties because it wouldn't be possible without their support and encouragement."

Married 28 years, Woodhouse has three children. His son Nathan is 11. His daughters, Terri-Lynn, 23, and Krista, 20, both take political science at Brock University in St. Catharines and work full time at Famous Players Theatres in Hamilton.

Woodhouse "seldom" goes to movies himself. About *Apollo 13*, he said that it "showed the versatility of the creative mind" and how people "used ingenuity to fix their problems."



MAL WOODHOUSE

About *JFK*, he said "There is some truth to what Oliver Stone said — I don't think that Oswald acted alone. I enjoyed the process of measurement, the tracing of the bullet, the reconstruction process and their finding of clues and evidence."

He is "intrigued" by books on history, particularly those by Pierre Berton and William Stevenson. Books on the future, genetics, electronic technology, the communication age and its impact on society also "interest" him.

About television, Woodhouse said he watches hockey, boxing or educational programs. He said he enjoys investigative reports and specials on archeology. "I wanted to be an archeologist when I was six or seven. I wanted to dig up dinosaurs."

His hobbies include fishing, golfing, horticulture, coaching baseball and visiting museums.

"People don't like going to museums with me. I take the time to read everything while others simply walk by. You see past generations and how they dealt with situations."

His musical tastes range from 1930s and 1940s music to The Cure and Crash Test Dummies.

About the future, Woodhouse said "I've committed myself to three years of being the mayor of Thorold. I don't have any other plans.

"I don't want to get involved in anything that I can't make a positive contribution to."

EDITORIALS

The Niagara News is a practical lab for the Journalism-Print program, covering the college community and other areas of interest. Opinions expressed are not necessarily those of management of the Niagara News or the administration of Niagara College. P.O. Box 1005, 300 Woodlawn Rd., Ontario L3B 5S2. Phone (905) 735-2211, Ext. 7750/382-2383. Fax (905) 788-3978.

Editor: *Keri-Lynn Smith* **Associate Editor:** *James M. Coote* ***Publisher:*** *Larry Taylor* **Managing Editor:** *Phyllis Barnatt* **Associate Editor:** *Gary Erb* **Editorial Copy Co-ordinator:** *Lee-Ann Ayres* **Advertising Managers:** *Karen Audet, Ron Tufts.* **On-site Advertising Co-ordinator:** *Ron Crowley* **Photography Consultant:** *Carole Timm* **Photography Crew: Chief:** *Penni Toneguzzo* ***Crew:*** *Jennifer Elliott, Sherry Summerhayes, Jennifer Gibson, Gretta Rossi, Janice Poole, Christine Turmaine.*

Homolka gets sweetheart deal too easily

Karla Homolka will be eligible for parole in 1997.

This worrisome possibility prompted more than 300,000 Canadians to sign a petition urging Homolka's infamous plea bargain be re-opened.

And rightly so. A condition of her deal stipulated the agreement could be invalidated if her involvement in any other crimes came to be known.

Concerned Canadians have been given the inquiry they wanted, but it hasn't changed anything.

This is where a young woman known only as Jane Doe comes in. She was assaulted by Homolka and Paul Bernardo, but she doesn't want charges laid against Homolka. It's her right. The Constitution says so.

As for the offences against Kristen French and Leslie Mahaffy, this is where videotapes depicting both Homolka and Bernardo as active participants in the crimes come into play. Had the tapes been found sooner, such a wishy-washy deal would not have been struck.

Ken Murray, Bernardo's lawyer, had the tapes just days before the plea bargain was made, although they conveniently didn't find their way to the Crown for another 16 months.

Unfortunately, under Canadian criminal law, a manslaughter conviction can't be undone to prosecute the same person for murder, even if devastating evidence comes to light.

It's high time the law was changed.

Understanding a deal had to be made because without it, and without the tapes, prosecutors didn't have enough to convict Bernardo, doesn't make the thought of Homolka's release any less frightening.

And 1997 isn't very far away.

Keri-Lynn Smith

Teens should have no financial fears

It's time for those poor people out there to stop their whining and take action.

The Ontario Public Service Employee Union (OPSEU) strike lasted more than five weeks, and the deal the civil servants received wasn't up to par. Let's face reality: the government is not going to provide all the things that Pierre Trudeau promised us in the early 1980s.

If you are in your late teens or even in your 20s, you should have no fears about your financial future. It's the aging, 2.2 child-rearing, mortgage paying, unemployed, uneducated, unqualified, OPSEU worker who should worry.

The key to our future is investment, something many parents didn't know about until the late '70s, and even then most of them didn't know where or how to start.

Tax season is over and no doubt some of you got burned on your income tax return. Well, not a problem.

This summer, when you are working and remembering why you decided to go to college in the first place, think of this one simple rule: 10 per cent.

All you need to do is take 10 per cent of your income right off the top and invest it into mutual funds. After all, when you are making $400 a week, investing $40 of it is no big deal. Really easy, right?

Well, here's the tricky part.

When it comes to the end of January, you will want to talk to your investor about converting your low-risk mutual funds into high-risk Registered Retirement Savings Plan (RRSP) mutual funds so that you can write them off on your federal tax bill.

So, if you are a student and are accustomed to living cheaply, you can probably live off your return for more than a month.

By following these steps, you have successfully turned a small part of your expendable money into a large part of your future nest egg.

James M. Coote

Letter to the Editor

Teechers Knightmayor's

Deer Editore:

We wood like to tank, first and 4 most r english instrucktors over da years. english is very difficult language to mastir. Butt, good to no.

R gramher was poor to start butt has improoved well.

As 4 r jernallism co-ordinator Fillus (on a furst name basis after so much time heer) She tawt us. The wear, and wear not to poot punctuation and gave us: confidents—in r abilitees.

Attending the mornings predication of aggrevation, punctuation, abbreviation and stultification are all within r vocabulary now.

The herb-inator, always a thums up and lager than life figure looming over us during a see pee test was always thair with a "good job" even when we no its "krap."

Carole, who nose that a #2+#3 (filter) does not = #5, always found something "asteticklee" pleasing about r photos.

Journalism hopefulls—never give up, instead just quit trying. Seriously though, believe you can do it, whatever "it" is.

And to the first years taking over in Aprul. Good luk, it will be impossible to out do us, butt, you will soon see that it takes more than a crash course in "hooket on fonix" to understand See Pee.

Sin Cereally,
Year 2 JerHELLizm stewdence

Editor's Note: The letter above was composed by Year 2 Journalism-Print students (obviously ones who still need to work on stress management.) While this letter is fanciful we guarantee the graduates behind it CAN spell, write grammatically correct and chase firetrucks professionally.

Harris: right or wrong?

By JENNIFER HARDING
Staff Writer

Love him, love him not.

I find myself counting flower petals while I try to decide what my opinion is of Ontario Premier Mike Harris.

On one hand, he is making crucial economic cuts. We have reached a state in the province's economy where there is just no money left for anybody.

Don't get me wrong. I am sympathetic to the needs of those who struggle to make ends meet — hey, I'm one of them. If there is going to be an economic future for our children or even for us in a few years, something's got to change.

And Harris is making those changes.

Maybe he's not doing it the perfect way.

In 10 years though, when we are finally able to see the economy looking up and some kind of growth and economic hope for the future, I'm sure many will look back and realize Harris wasn't so wrong after all.

The problem I have with Harris is contained in the Omnibus Bill. With the effects this bill could have on the environment, will we have the time to look at the good side in 10 years?

In this bill, Harris gave the government power to sell off the conservation areas in the Niagara Region.

This is a step backwards in our ecological fight against time.

These conservation areas had a purpose — to help save the species in that area, some of which perhaps were only found in those specific areas.

Without even looking at the global state of our environment, we know we are in trouble.

The high levels of air pollution and the high cancer rates should tell us something.

So why destroy what we do have left? Is this really a cost-cutting method? How much money is this saving? In 10 years, will I feel positive about this? Somehow, I doubt that.

This area is already in crisis. We should be doing our best to help improve it, not make it worse.

Our last edition happens April 19

FROM THE HIP

He said

By JAMES M. COOTE
Staff Writer

Old guys, young guys, married guys, single guys, fat guys, skinny guys, guys with long hair and guys with no hair sitting back and enjoying the fruits of life.

With a pornographic film to the left, the night's hockey game to the right — both on large screen televisions — and a vivacious, scantily clad woman before me, I sat back with beer in hand and reeled with delight.

Where else can 75 guys get together with beautiful, half-naked women, but at an exotic dance palace?

Last Saturday, Christine and I went to Mints Lounge on Main Street in Niagara Falls, Ont. I challenged her to go and see what it was all about after I became agitated with her constant defamation of female exotic dancers.

The atmosphere is that of any other club, with flashing lights, liquor at the bar, and beautiful women. It is not as seedy as one might think. The only difference is that the women are the only ones dancing. And boy can they dance.

There is a brass pole and plenty of room for their eloquent acrobatics and splendid gyrations. What heterosexual man could resist the temptation to spend a fiver on a table dance? Well, it's not for everyone.

Christine drank her beer in a big hurry. She seemed a little nervous about the whole situation, even though she didn't attract any more sideways glances than I did.

I think she liked it. She couldn't stop laughing. What she was laughing at I don't know. I didn't find anything that funny.

It's time for women to stop bothering men about going to these places. If a woman wants to know what really happens, she should go and see for herself.

Whether Christine liked it or not, she now has reason for an opinion.

Photo by James M. Coote

She said

By CHRISTINE TURMAINE
Staff Writer

What a pathetic bunch of losers!

Every kind of guy imaginable was there, all intently mesmerized by a leather-clad, chain sportin' stripper, with cottage cheese thighs and "you bet your life they're implant" breasts.

With a vulgar porno, and a hockey game in the background, "DARRYL," the feature act, was strutting around with a bald guy's baseball cap on her gigantic cantaloupes. (I've never drank a beer so fast, trying to avoid eye-to-body contact.)

Being more interested in the hockey game than in the immediate entertainment, I couldn't help but eye the audience. There were four "dancers" walking the floor in fewer clothes than I shower in. Wearing a pair of boots and with a set of tan lines, they desperately tried to sell tickets for private table dances.

NO BUYERS. Why not?

Because the men were really cheap, or the women weren't worth the $5 and the spiked heels they were walking around in (I think the latter is right on the nose).

The most inane thing I saw was when the men started dropping like flies onto the stage with money in their mouths.

I couldn't stop laughing when they were lying there, waiting like children in a candy store to give away their hard-earned money to a stripper who doesn't even know they exist.

What a feeble attempt to gratify one's sexual urges. Is this an indication of what men's sexual fantasies are really like? How nauseating!

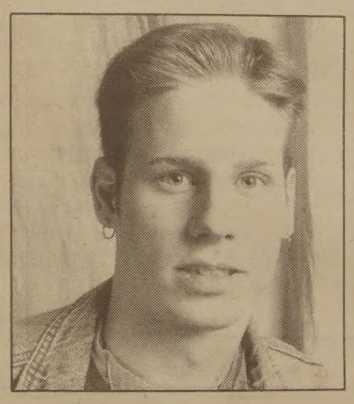
One girl performed an entertaining acrobatic spin around a pole on centre stage (pretty impressive).

But. . . do they really think this is their way to the Rockettes?

Pleeeeeaaaaase!

Join us in two weeks when we'll review Peppermints, the flip side of Mints.

Hang 'em High



By BRAD MOSCATO
Staff Writer

We have all heard arguments in support of the death penalty.

Most of these arguments are reactions of gruesome murders and horrible, frightful acts of violence which none of us approve of, none of us permit, and all of us denounce.

Does the death penalty play an appropriate role in our efforts to punish savage criminals? I believe that it does.

By identifying the death penalty with the crimes for which it is imposed, society is made more aware of the atrocity of these crimes. In addition, citizens are aware of the need to avoid such conduct and fittingly condemn those who commit violent crimes.

I am convinced that enforcing capital punishment would be a forceful deterrent.

Capital punishment does discourage violent crime. It not only would deter individual behavior, but would be used as a general deterrence as well.

'. . .capital punishment would be a forceful deterrent.'

I believe justice should be served in today's society. Does justice not require that criminals get what they deserve? Should callous action be tolerated?

The death penalty acknowledges that in society there are some crimes that are so monstrous, heartless, and insensitive that nothing less than death will serve as adequate punishment.

Canadians tend to agree with me. In a Reader's Digest poll of 1,235 Canadian adults last summer, 70 per cent said they would support reinstatement of the death penalty and 76 per cent felt this would be an effective way to reduce violent crime.

Capital punishment was permanently abolished by the Pierre Trudeau government in 1976, by a six-vote margin — 130 to 124. In the best interest of society, the federal government should amend the Criminal Code to give judges power to impose the death penalty for first-degree murder.

Today under section 745 of the Criminal Code, murderers can apply for early release after serving three-fifths or 15 years of a life sentence (78 per cent of applicants are successful).

Section 746 begins the process of determining the sentence length from the time of pre-trial incarceration, not conviction.

Today's law-abiding citizens demand that they be protected from violent and hideous crimes.

It is therefore their right that the death penalty be reinstated. Forget about the electric monitoring idea. Let's bring in the electric chair instead.

'80s Kids

By JENNIFER ELLIOTT
Staff Writer

We are children of the '80s.

We are the ones who built cities out of Legos, gave our Barbies haircuts with safety scissors that never really cut, carried around ghettoblasters and sang along with Debbie Gibson, and made mock wars with our G.I. Joes.

We collected Garbage Pail Kids, My Little Ponies, Hot Wheels and He-man and Shera action figures. We are the ones who read Nancy Drew, The Hardy Boys, Beverly Cleary, Judy Blume and Richard Scary.

Imagination was the key. It made the treehouse big enough to be the Deathstar and the wooden stick a lightsaber. It made the fort we built out of the couch cushions indestructible.

Today, we flip through the television laughing at the old reruns of the A-Team, Dukes of Hazard and Knight Rider. We hold strong affections for the Muppets, Scooby Doo and— who could forget?— the Thundercats. Today, we perfectly, but shamefully, sing every lyric to Platinum Blonde and the Culture Club songs.

The fads consisted of charm necklaces and friendship bracelets, pinned pants and friendship pins, fluorescent socks and jelly shoes, side ponytails and just "tails," high-top sneakers and turned-up collars.

Everyone wanted a skirt just like Madonna's and a glove just like Michael Jackson's. In our Underoos, we were Wonderwoman, Spiderman, or R2-D2.

Entertainment was cheap and lasted for hours. All we needed to be a princess was heels and an apron. The sit'n'spin always made us dizzy, but never made us stop. Our world was the backyard and that space was all we needed.

The 1980s have made us idealistic and creative and it is this mentality which will push us further and be passed on to our children.

Left to right: Rene Fleury Jr., Angela King, Robert Soucy, Trevor Thomas, Ray Thomas, Brian Thomas, Tyler Thomas, Colin Rohrmoser, Tony Bignell, Darren Morin

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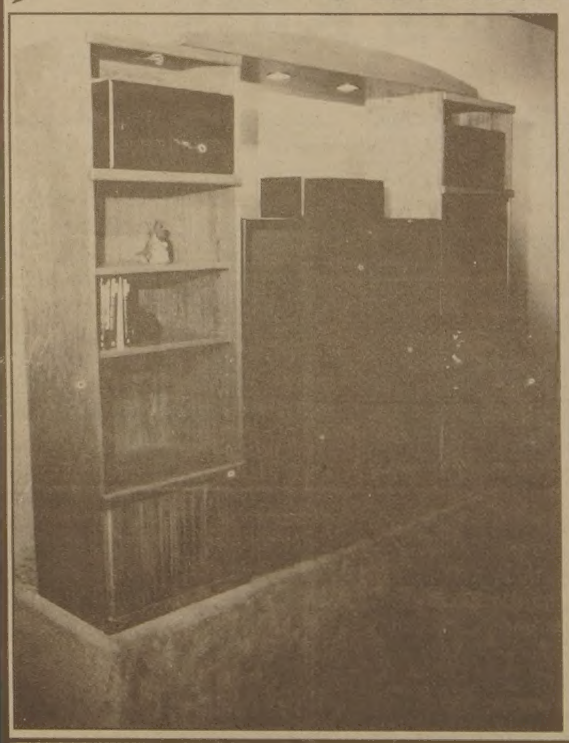

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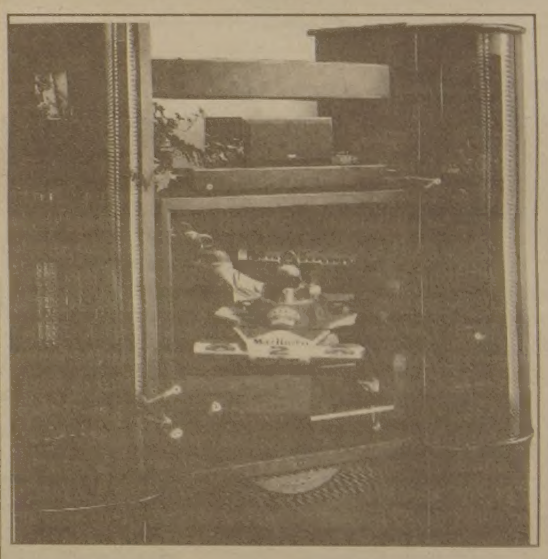

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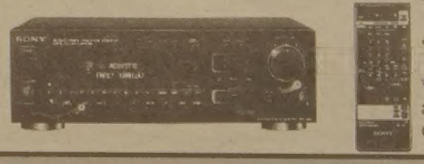

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A new home for housing at Niagara

By GRETTA ROSSI
Staff Writer

SAC is in the house.

Student housing, that is. The Student Administrative Council (SAC) is in the process of taking over Student Housing Information from the Admissions and Financial Aid offices.

The move was prompted because the Admissions offices were unable "to provide the manpower to accommodate the project because of cuts to the budget," said Cindy Blanchard, the student council office manager. "Our campus is the biggest; we have a great volume of students looking for housing."

In an effort to make the system of finding housing eaiser for students SAC is making changes, beginning with the creation of a summer job at its offices.

The job involves hiring a Niagara College student from the Welland area. The idea is being adapted from a job much like one held by a student at the Hospitality and Tourism Centre in Niagara Falls. The job description, although subject to change, calls for someone who can help new and returning students find housing in the area.

"An absolute must for this job is someone who has a working knowledge of this area, someone who has lived here for a while," says Blanchard.

The job will last from May 1 to Aug. 30 and have a 20 to 25-hour work week.

The job will be paid for through the collection of user fees charged to people who want to post housing advertisements at the college.

'If the fee can help provide a job for a student...'

The user fees are new for the college. Of the 600 housing vacancy cards mailed and now beginning to come back, only one has contained a complaint about the fee, said Blanchard.

Maria Scambati, a homeowner in the Welland area, said, "If the fee can help provide a job for a student, it's a good idea."

This year, housing information will have a new home. SAC has ordered new glass display cases to be installed near the counselling office beside the Secord Room in the Tecumseh Centre.

For students to better understand their rights as tenants, the student housing information pamphlet is being updated. The new pamphlet will be sent with the package the college mails to students accepted to the college.

Free Wild Strawberries and hypnotists. . .where?

By CHRISTINE TURMAINE
Staff Writer

From a lifeless warehouse to a thriving hub of student activity, After Hours has become the place to be.

David Rapelje, student life manager of Niagara College, has changed four white, barren walls into a stimulating and vibrant hangout for students.

Rapelje, 29, began his endeavor to make a "cold, non-consumer-friendly" pub into a warm, inviting place, while working on a special project for the vice-president of student life.

It is now a place where students can enjoy spending their leisure time. The pub at the Welland campus has "now taken on its own identity."

Rapelje spent about 12 hours a day, five days a week, during the summer of 1991 working on the pub. "I enjoy the concept of a challenge, and I saw the potential," he says.

Since he took over, After Hours is no longer supported by the Student Administrative Council (SAC). SAC used to financially support the pub, but now the pub makes enough money to support itself. The revenue has increased from $95,000 to more than $220,000 a year.

The students at Niagara have been the main benefactors. Compared with having four staff members before, the pub now employs more than 25 students in part-time jobs during the school year. It is also a source of entertainment for students.

After Hours hosts "regular programming" on Wednesday and Thursday nights. The entertainment ranges from Yuk-Yuks comedy to MuchMusic appearances. During the day, on Tuesdays and Thursdays, live bands are brought in from all throughout Canada.

"We're trying to give students really good entertainment and non-alcoholic beverages, not just pump them full of alcohol and send them on their way," said Rapelje.

'...100 per cent free, to see wicked bands.'

Daytime entertainment has ranged from bands like The Wild Strawberries and Junkhouse to hypnotists and impressionists. "I attribute a lot of the success to the best Canadian bands playing here," says Rapelje.

"And for all of this . . . what is the cost?. . . Nothing. It's always free, 100 per cent free, to see wicked bands," says Rapelje.

Never before at Niagara College have students had so much offered to them for free. "We were able to do all that and still make a profit," says Rapelje. "The money made goes back into making the student centre better and to provide better service . . . It's a nice partnership."

Once the new student residence at Niagara College is complete, Rapelje says he plans to open After Hours five nights a week and to build an outdoor patio.

After all of these "remarkable changes" he has made, Rapelje remains humble. "Cindy Blanchard, office manager for SAC, has played a pivotal role in redefining our operational process, so that we can run with success." He attributes the success of After Hours to his staff. "I believe that I have the best staff in the Niagara Region. Students servicing students is quite a challenge."

Three years ago, this student centre was almost completely barren.

Photo by Christine Turmaine

Admission delays

By BECCA VERSAEVEL
Staff Writer

Many Niagara College students seem to have some problems concerning the admissions offices.

Long lineups, delays in receiving acceptance letters and sending wrong tuition rates for international students are just some of the problems encountered.

Jenn Bell, a clerk in the admissions office, says the problem is often miscommunication.

"Either we didn't ask enough questions or they didn't ask enough," she says.

As for late acceptance letters, the provincial government doesn't allow the admissions office to mail any letters out before May 1.

Bell says students who applied after March 1 will receive their letter later as the on-time applications are dealt with first.

International students should bring concerns to the International Education department because the admissions office doesn't handle their applications.

"It may be that they (students) forgot to check off the right box or there was a problem with the language barrier," says Bell.

She says the office doesn't run as smoothly as it could, partly because of the government cutbacks. The office is not allowed any part-time help and often has only two people working.

The secret is in the sauce

By LAURA CHRISHOLM
Staff Writer

The secret is out.

While she can't reveal all of the ingredients in the secret sauce at the Niagara College Mr. Submarine stand, Sandy Miller, a 47-year-old Welland resident who works at the shop, says, "It's definitely not Italian dressing."

Miller has been working at Niagara College's Welland campus for four years. She is an employee of Versa Services. Miller says, "I like my job and the people I work with. We have the most fun with the students. They're our best customers."

The stand is open Monday to Friday from 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. For Miller, the day starts at 7 a.m. Her duties include inventory of supplies, ordering of supplies and slicing the toppings. She says, "The worst part of my job is cutting onions. I do them first, to get rid of them as soon as possible. Everything else is great."

"The job is a beauty," says Miller. The plastic gloves that were once an inconvenience for the stand's employees have been replaced by handwashing using disinfectant soap between subs. Even at the busiest times, the system used can be described as "smooth sailing."

Miller says "while all the ingredients are fresh and healthy, you just never want to eat subs when you work with them all day."

"Things are never certain here. We've even run out of buns before," says Miller. "But I love the college. I'd definitely send one of my kids here." Miller's future plans may be to attend the college. "I'd miss this job if I had to give it up," she says. "But I've always loved animals and I'd like to be a veterinarian's assistant. Who knows?"

Alumna sees change in BRTF program

By KERI-LYNN SMITH
Staff Writer

There's no place like home, at least not for Trisha Franklin, 22, of St. Catharines.

Franklin graduated from the Broadcasting — Radio, Television and Film (BRTF) program two years ago, and has since been working as a teacher's assistant at the Welland campus.

She said her film teacher, Elias Petras, offered her the job after she graduated, but she still keeps a lookout for other work.

"Just like any job right now, you're not certain of what the future is with all the cutbacks," she said.

Franklin makes $15 an hour, and works about 20 hours a week, helping with classes, demonstrations and film shoots.

During shoots, Franklin ensures proper procedures are being followed and makes sure everything remains under control.

She said a few things are different at the college now.

"When I started, you weren't in production or presentation. You just came in and you took radio, television and film. And then you majored in radio, television or film."

She said she would have liked more choices of general electives, not just the English, geography and computers offered to her.

Not everything has changed, however.

Franklin said the teachers were, and still are, friendly and approachable.

The studio curfew set (and later lifted) earlier this year for BRTF program students as a punishment for stolen equipment is something Franklin experienced first-hand as a student.

"Someone broke into a studio and stole a CD player. So we had a curfew until everything was peachy again," she said.

Franklin said her best memory of student life is of a shoot she did in Florida. She worked on a 20-minute documentary about greyhound dogs, called Greyhounds - A Fall From Grace.

'Just like any job right now, you're not certain of what the future is with all the cutbacks.'

She said she enjoyed the experience because she was "so far out of school" she had to solve problems, such as a sound machine breaking, without the help of the college.

"It was just a lot of fun because it was a totally different situation."

Franklin said in the future she sees herself "working behind the scenes . . . editing.

"I love editing, either commercials or feature films. That's pretty big. Not key editor, but in there."

She said she's determined to reach her goals.

"You have to be persistent. Not to the point where you're annoying, but in their faces, keeping at it."

Franklin said graduates shouldn't give up easily.

"Basically, when you get out there you're a nobody to employers, and you have to sell yourself because they have no idea what you have to offer them."

She said students will learn that the work at school gets "really hard" and "frustrating at times.

"It's worth it in the end if that's what you really want to do," she said.

Teacher's assistant, Trisha Franklin, 22, works with a student in the Broadcasting- Radio, Television and Film program.
Photo by Keri-Lynn Smith

BRTF student sees a challenging future

By HEATHER HUNTER
Staff Writer

He gets his news sheets ready, makes himself comfortable, and waits for the red light to indicate he is finally on the air.

Robert Crumb, a third-year Broadcasting—Radio, Television and Film program student, has waited too long for the opportunity to broadcast for a live audience.

The 23-year-old Brantford native started at Niagara College with only one desired goal. "I've always liked broadcasting. It's something that I've always wanted to do, even as a child."

Crumb works in the CRNC broadcasting booth in the foyer of the Simcoe building. He works once a week for five hours, and spends his air-time broadcasting current news events, weather reports, and playing the students' favorite music of rock and alternative.

In the 1995-96 session, Crumb was the music director and was able to pick the music that he wanted to hear. Now he must play music for the student body to enjoy, he says.

Although Crumb's favorite music is dance music, he says the student body's opinion is "most important" in shaping the daily music selection.

Crumb says he "thoroughly enjoys" Niagara College, and more so his course.

He says broadcasting students used to follow a standard curriculum, but now the students are able to voice their opinions and suggest improvements to the course to make it more beneficial for the students.

'I've always liked broadcasting. It's something that I've always wanted to do.'

With co-op experience at CHCH television in Hamilton, Crumb says he has hands-on training in a broadcasting studio, and has worked with many familiar broadcasters.

Dan McLean and Lauran Sabourin are Crumb's role models. "They're pretty cool," says Crumb.

A day's work in the broadcast booth includes making sure the show runs smoothly, and timing is the key, says Crumb. "Broadcasting students are marked according to voice, quality of topics, and timing."

'The hard part is just getting your foot in the door.'

Crumb says CRNC has the "best local news coverage." The broadcast team contacts police, gathers information from local newspapers, and receives faxes to add to their future file, where there is always current information.

When Crumb is finished school, he says he would like to work in his native city of Brantford at a cable television station, where he would like to be a news reporter. He says he feels that broadcasting is a hard business to get into, but he doesn't mind starting at the bottom and eventually working his way up.

Crumb says that Niagara has given him a lot of "great experience," and he's ready to work after his last year of studies. However, Crumb says he sees a challenging future ahead, adding "The hard part is just getting your foot in the door."

Merging may benefit broadcasting students

By BRIAN HALLETT
Staff Writer

It is believed to be the first of its kind in Canada.

Niagara College's co-ordinator of the Broadcasting Radio Television Film (BRTF) is talking with the Canadian Radio-Television Telecommunication Commision (CRTC) about the possibility of merging with another radio station.

"The CRTC seems to be very much in favor of the idea," says Stu Black.

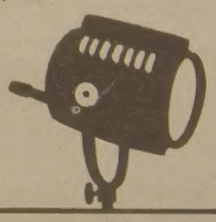
Black, living in Niagara Falls, has a radio station in mind for this merge, but won't reveal which one.

It's "never been done before," he says.

If a merger is approved, tuition fees for BRTF program students will not go up as a result of the new equipment.

Black has been BRTF co-ordinator for five years. He has spent about a year trying to get the radio merge started.

He says he wants to provide a service to the community, but the main reason is "No. 1 for our students."



Rogers Cable 10 has a fibre optic line running from the college.

This will allow the radio station to run its signal through this line to the main radio station, which will send the signal to air. The rest of the equipment cost will be picked up by the selling of commercial time and through sponsors.

Going to air should benefit the students the most, says Black.

The students need the experience to find a job, he says, adding the students will be operating the station with help from BRTF staff.

Inside Niagara keeps region up to date

Second-year students in the Broadcasting, Radio, Television and Film program broadcast Inside Niagara, a live news and information program, from the television studio on the Welland campus every Thursday at noon.

Inside Niagara airs across the Niagara Region live on Rogers Cable 10 each week through Thursday, April 25, with rebroadcasts Thursday evenings and weekends.

Every episode includes news, sports, entertainment, in-depth features and special interest stories from around the region.

NIAGARA COLLEGE CANADA

Help a child smile

Mark April 17 on the calendar, and plan to attend A New Media Showcase, an event featuring computer innovations of sight and sound.

It will start at 7 p.m. in Room V10 (Voyageur wing) at the Welland campus of Niagara College.

There will be a special presentation to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the Help a Child Smile Organization, a charity aimed at helping young people.

For more information contact Karrie Dunham at 735-2211, extension 7781.

Full-time students work part-time jobs

By KERI-LYNN SMITH
Staff Writer

Jen Willick, Michelle Gilles and Stacey Askeland — three different people with two things in common.

Stacey Askeland, a Niagara College first-year Law and Security Administration student, is working part time at St. Catharines' Pen Centre.

Photo by Keri-Lynn Smith

They are full-time Niagara College students working part-time jobs.

Willick, 20, is a second-year Registered Nursing program student at the St. Catharines campus. She works as nursing assistant for Comcare (Canada) Ltd. in St. Catharines, a health care service that helps keep clients out of the hospital and in their homes during illness. Feeding and bathing clients are among her duties, as is keeping clients company.

Willick works about four hours a week on weekends earning roughly $10 an hour. Her job relates directly to what she's learning at school.

Gilles, 39, a first-year student in the Broadcasting-Radio, Television and Film program at the college's campus in Welland, works after school and on weekends. She volunteers at Rogers Community 10, a cable television company in Niagara Falls, where she edits, works the cameras, directs and designs graphics.

Gilles says volunteering at the company, where she has been for two years, is how she became interested in enrolling at the college.

"I wanted to learn about the rules and regulations set by the Canadian Radio and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC). CRTC regulates everything we do, so it's important to know what's going on."

Askeland, 19, is in her first year of the Law and Security Administration program at the Welland campus. She prefers to work at a job that has nothing to do with her program.

'There will be plenty of time for school-related jobs next year.'

"There will be plenty of time for school-related jobs next year," she says, adding "right now I just want to take it easy."

For Askeland, this means working in retail. She works for $7 an hour as a sales associate at Fairweather, a clothing store at Pen Centre in St. Catharines.

She works about 12 hours a week and says only employees in management get full-time hours.

She says the "businesslike" clothes the store carries aren't her style, but she enjoys helping customers with purchases.

"It's interesting. I get to work with a lot of different people."

Askeland says she wants to work full time in the summer, but for now her job suits her just fine.

"I love fashion," she says.

Willick says she's happy making $10 an hour, but once she graduates she'll be looking for higher pay and more hours.

"What I do at my job is some of what I do at school, but I also have so many skills I can't use until I have my diploma," says Willick, adding "I enjoy my job, but I feel I can never do enough for the people I see."

Gilles says she wishes she could get in more editing time.

"I like seeing my name up there on the screen. It gives me a sense of accomplishment," she says.

Willick says she helps the clients she works with keep their dignity.

"It makes me feel good just knowing I've made a difference."

Niagara witch respects freedom of religion

'The Wiccan religion is not basically against Christianity.'

By HYOJEONG KIM
Staff Writer

Witches are not evil people who have sold their souls to the Devil. They are just like other ordinary people around you.

A Wiccan witch, Ryan Brown, 20, is a first-year student in the Computer Engineering Technology program.

"Thirteen years ago, I started researching religions because I wanted to find something to fit for me," said Brown.

He said he went through a number of religions, such as Buddhism, Christianity and Eastern European religions, and it was Wicca he found to feel right.

"The term 'wicca' is based on the old Anglo-Saxon word 'wicci' or 'wici' meaning a wise person of the village and the Wiccan religion is not basically against Christianity," said Brown.

Brown, of Fort Erie, said there's no specific bible but there are some books about the Wiccan religion, and he recommends The Spiral Dance by StarHawk to those who want to learn about Wicca.

He said the major rule of Wicca is "as long as you're not harming anyone, do whatever you want."

He said his parents, who are Protestant, didn't like it when he decided to adopt the Wiccan religion.

"My mom talked with me about it and when she found it wasn't what she thought it was, she was fine with it."

There is an organization in Canada called The Wiccan Church of Canada, but Brown said the religion is based on scattered small groups of people who get together from time to time to share what they've done.

He said the Wiccan religion does not seek to convert people and he himself respects freedom of religion.

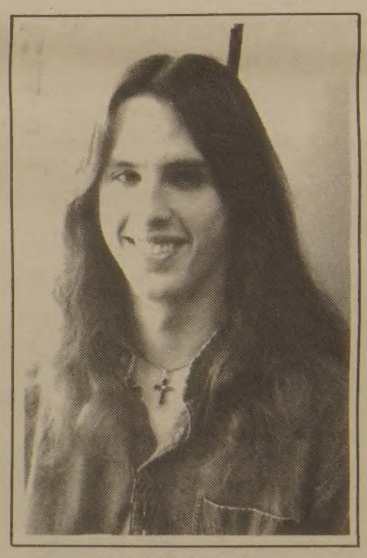
"If I have kids, I'll try to bring them up with access to the Wiccan religion but it's their choice."

Brown said he likes to be called ShadowHawk. He said he thinks it suits him.

"One thing is that, in one of the books I read, people take names that feel fitting to them; I got the idea out of the book."

He said he reads a lot and likes to role play in his spare time.

"My life isn't much different than others."



RYAN BROWN

Easter eggs were symbols of life and resurrection

By DEBRALEE VANGHENT
Staff Writer

Did you ever wonder where the tradition of the Easter egg came from or started?

The Easter egg has a long ancestry. Long before the Christian era, eggs were looked upon as symbols of continuing life and resurrection.

The ancient Persians, Greeks and Chinese exchanged eggs at their spring festivals held when all things in Nature revived after the winter.

In several pagan mythologies, reference is made to the World Egg from which the divine sunbird was hatched, or from which the two halves of which heaven and earth were formed.

In early Christian times, eggs seemed an obvious symbol of Jesus Christ's resurrection, and they were considered holy and appropriate gifts at Easter time.

In pre-Reformation times, they were blessed and used in the Easter ceremonies of the church.

The custom of coloring eggs at Easter may be as old as the festival itself.

In England during the Middle Ages, the household of King Edward I spent 18 pence on the purchase of 450 eggs which were to be colored or covered with gold leaf and then distributed to the royal household.

In Switzerland, flowers and leaves are applied to the eggs before boiling them in onion peel to produce a white pattern on the tinted ground.

Yugoslavians mark their eggs with the letters XV for *Christos vaskrese* (Christ has risen) — the traditional Easter greeting in Europe.

The Easter egg can be many colors but is often red to commemorate the blood Christ shed on Good Friday, but scarlet eggs were also given in spring by the Chinese and other pagan people centuries before the birth of Jesus Christ.

Many methods have been used to tint eggs, but a common one is to boil them with flowers, leaves, wood chips and cochineal to produce specific colors. The leaves produce the color green, the wood produces a rich purple, and cochineal produces scarlet.

With the Easter eggs, there must be the Easter Bunny. In some countries, the Easter Bunny is referred to as the Easter Hare.

In Europe, it is usually the Easter Hare that lies in the garden or around the house and outbuildings.

The latter is the true Easter beast for he was once sacred to the European Spring-Goddess whom he met under her Anglo-Saxon name, Eostre.

In England, the tradition is to have a hare-hunt in the spring, and the hares still appear on Easter cards in Northern Europe and in the little basket German and Hungarian children use to collect their Easter gifts.

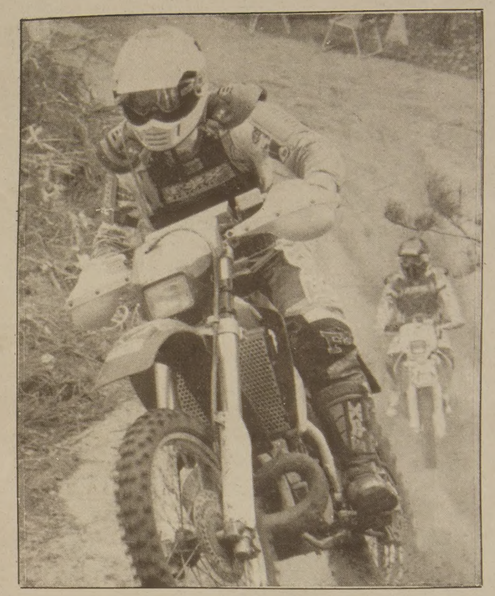
In England, eggs are hidden among the long grasses and spring flowers or, when the weather is cold, inside homes.

The principle of this Easter egg hunt hasn't changed. The hare and eggs appear to show the beginning of spring.

Photography contest ends with a photo finish

First place news photo by Lee-Ann Ayres.

Best overall photo by Ben Fisher.



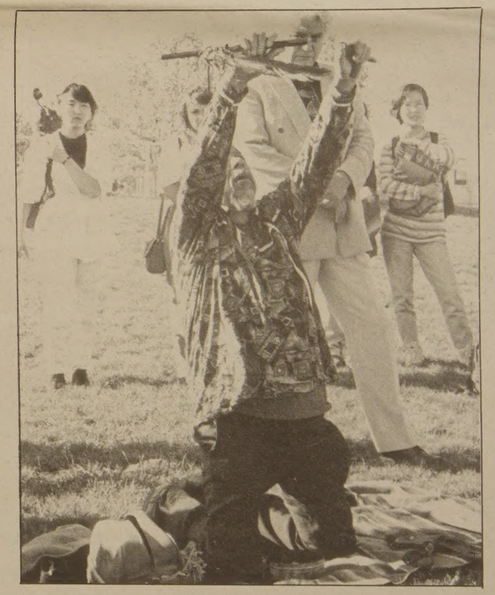
Second place sports photo by Ryan Barber.

Second place human interest photo by Lynn Dunlap.

The winners of the third annual Journalism-Print program "Best of Year 2" photography competition were recently selected by members of the Journalism-Print advisory committee. The committee included Jim Middleton, a former managing editor of the Welland Tribune, Gary Manning, managing editor of the Welland Tribune, Michael Brown, managing editor of the Niagara Falls Review, Paul Paterson, managing editor of Planet 2000 Publications, Paul Dayboll, owner CanTrack Software Inc., in Port Colborne, Rich Hutchings, former editor of Fort Erie Times-Review and minister at the Ontario Bible College in Toronto, and Larry Taylor, formerly Niagara College's Media and Design Division director. Faculty did not participate in the selection.

First place sports photo by John Eaton.

Prizes for the Niagara News photography contest were contributed by Ilford, Kodak, Bell Arte Camera, Burlington Camera, MCL Colour Lab, Acron Mouldings, The Welland Tribune, and Niagara College.



Second place news photo by Lynn Dunlap.

In addition to first and second place winners, third place and honorable mention photo winners were named: They included (third place) Jennifer Mitchell in human interest, Jeff MacKay in sports, and Sal Ramos Jr. in news. The honorable mention winners were Lee-Ann Ayres in human interest, Laury Reid in sports and Stephanie Bonner in news.

Niagara College Student Discount Program

January 1, 1996 to August 31, 1997

If you attend Niagara College as a full-time, part-time, or continuing education enrolee, you're eligible for a 10% discount on non-sale, non-coupon items from the following businesses (exceptions are noted). All you have to do is show your current student or continuing education ID card.

LIST OF PARTICIPATING MERCHANTS

NIAGARA FALLS

2 Guys Glass Inc.
6424 Morrison Unit 1 & 2
Excluding labour

Artistic Residential Remodelling
4121 Muir Avenue

Electronic Depot
6170 Lundy's Lane

Falls Manor Motel & Restaurant
7104 Lundy's Lane

Giallonardo Chiropractic Centre
7116 McLeod Road, Unit #2

Grand & Toy
Niagara Square, Montrose Road

H & R Block
5904 Main Street
Excluding cash back service & Tax Training School

H & R Block
Niagara Square, Montrose Road
Excluding cash back service & Tax Training School

Holiday VIP Tours
5655 Robinson Street, Suite204
50% to local residents & students

Niagara Falls Chronicle
4400 Queen Street

Niagara Parkway Court Motel
3708 Main Street

Dr. Robert Nicol, D.D.S.
3521 Portage Road

O & E Sales Antiques & Pawnbrokers
4593 Victoria Avenue

Penguin Office Supplies
5920 Main Street
Excluding postage/courier service/ water

Software First Computers Ltd.
5717 Brookfield Avenue

Subway Sandwiches & Salads
5846 Drummond Road
10% or buy one get 2nd for 99 cents w/med. drink purchase

ST. CATHARINES

AMJ Campbell Van Lines
113 Cushman Road Unit 64
No add'l discount on standard discounts

Alexandria Body Sugaring
23C Academy Street
By Appointment Only

Annabelle
One St. Paul Street
Reg. priced items only

Apartment Centre
73 Ontario Street
Selected properties only

Arax Jewellers
233 St. Paul Street

Baby Talk
6 James Street

Bad Billy's Homeland Furniture
353 St. Paul Street
15% on reg. price items

Bansaree Indian Restaurant
342 St. Paul Street
Excluding alcoholic beverages

The Bean on Queen
36 Queen Street
Excluding alcoholic beverages

Blue Mermaid
10 Market Square
Excluding alcoholic beverages/all national holidays

Book Mart
314 St. Paul Street

The Bookworm
27 James Street

The Boot Shop Ltd.
211 St. Paul Street

Bridal Factory
242 St. Paul Street

Classic Upholstery & Interiors
417 St. Paul Street

The Cyclepath
40 St. Paul Street
Excluding bicycles

Double V Restaurant
152 St. Paul Street
Excluding alcoholic beverages

Downtown Fine Music Shop
71 King Street Suite 100

Erroll's Shoe Repair
60 St. Paul Street

Esprit Films Limited
2 Lake Street

Fashion Studio
76 St. Paul Street
15% discount

Fulton Family Fitness
14 James Street
Free registration for NC students

Garden Cafe
19 King Street
Excluding alcoholic beverages & tobacco

George Coppel Jewellers
261 St. Paul Street
Excluding repairs & special orders

George's Restaurant
79 King Street
Excluding alcoholic beverages

Go-Print
3 King Street
Photocopies - 5 cents

H. B. Signs
78 Haig Street

H&R Block
186 St. Paul Street
Excluding cashback service & Tax Training School

H&R
Lincoln Mall
Excluding cashback service & Tax Training School

H&R Block
Grantham Plaza
Excluding cashback service & Tax Training School

H&R Block
Pen Centre, Sears
Excluding cashback service & Tax Training School

Herzog's
449 St. Paul Street
Reg. priced items only

Hideout
7 James Street

Invisible Fence of Niagara
Box 28011, 600 Ontario Street

Ireland Decorators
67 St. Paul Street

JBM Office Systems
15 Hiscott Street

Joe's Auto Centre
588 Carlton Street
Excluding advertised specials

Just Cafe
43 Church Street
Lunch menu only

King Street Fitness
21 King Street
Full time students only

Kloz Etc.
117 St. Paul Street

Lancer Restaurant
24 St. Paul Street
Excluding alcoholic beverages

Loon Chiropractic Centre
310 Lake Street
50% discount first visit, 42% off following treatments

Mansion House
5 William Street
Excluding alcoholic beverages

Marquise Gold Sales
196 St. Paul Street
Excluding repairs

Martial Arts Center
230 St. Paul Street

McKeown Sign Co.
69 Eastchester Avenue

Mr. Submarine
255 St. Paul Street

Nature Nook
105 St. Paul Street
Reg. priced items only

Nemeth Lincoln Mercury
169 Hartzell Road
Repairs & Maintenance only

The New Delicatessen
5 James Street

Nu-Craft Window & Door Co.
168 Bunting Road
Excluding sale/promotion items

The Paper Factory
210 Glendale Avenue
Reg. priced items only

Peace Core
One St. Paul Street
Reg. priced items only

Peninsula Press Ltd.
39 Ontario Street

Queen's Wool Ltd.
6 James Street

Red Hot Chili Pepper
One St. Paul Street
Excluding alcoholic beverages

St. Catharines Volkswagen
125 Hartzell Road
Repairs & Maintenance only

Sunset Restaurant
180 St. Paul Street
Excluding alcoholic beverages

The Paper Factory
210 Glendale Avenue
Discount on yellow ticket items only

Pointts (Traffic Ticket Specialists)
58 Ontario Street

Play it Again Sports
318 Ontario Street

Queen's Wool Ltd.
6 James Street

St. Catharines Volkswagen
125 Hartzell Road
Parts & servive only. Excluding advertised specials.

Sunset Restaurant
180 St. Paul Street
Excluding alcoholic beverages

Vandendool Jewellers
262 St. Paul Street
Excluding collector plates & school jewellery

Vita Health Foods
3 Helliwell Lane
Excluding dairy, confections, juice, pop

Williams Jewellers
149 St. Paul Street

WELLAND

Best Western Rose City Suites
300 Prince Charles Drive

Blakes Men's Shop
Seaway Mall, Niagara Street

Super 8 Motel
870 Niagara Street
Stat holidays and Dec. 31 excluded

Copyman Print Shop
572 Niagara Street North

H&R Block
21-23 Hellems Avenue
Excluding cashback service & Tax Training School

H&R Block Canada Inc.
Sears (Seaway Mall)
Excluding cashback service & Tax Training School

I.A. Printing
32 Cross Street

Lasting Impressions
54 Burger Street
Gift Baskets only

LeMirage
397 Thorold Road

McKendrick Rehab Services
24 Dorothy Street

Priority Business & Postal Centres
572 Niagara Street North
Excluding postage & money orders

Thrifty Car Rental
13 Southworth Street

The Welland Tribune
228 East Main Street

Vital Link
41-A Griffith Street
First Aid/CPR Instruction

BEAMSVILLE

Marquise Gold Sales
4691 King Street East
Excluding repairs

Manor Cleaners
4520 Ontario Street
15% discount

FONTHILL

Action Appraisal & Consultants
2 Brookbank Crescent

FORT ERIE

H & R Block
Country Fair Mall
Excluding cashback service & Tax Training School

Moran Trading Co.
84 Wintermute Street

JORDAN STATION

D. & R. Collision & Alignment
2741 William Street P.O. Box 247

THOROLD

Copyman Print Shop
3250 Schmon Parkway

H&R Block
29 Albert Street
Excluding cash back service

NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE

Little England Jewellery
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REC & LEISURE

Harley lovers find themselves in hog heaven

15,000 gather for bike convention

By PENNI TONEGUZZO
Staff Writer

Bikes, bikes and more bikes.

For some people, what could be better than a bike and tattoo convention.

Adrenalin in your heart and color on your body, does it make sense?

It did for more than 15,000 people who attended the National Body Art and Motorcycle Swap Meet at the Exhibition Place in Toronto on March 23 and 24.

The two-day event consisted of motorcycles, motorcycle wear, motorcycle parts, leather and tattoos.

People of all ages watched in amazement as rows of motorcycles caught their eye. Many motorcycles were for show, but most were for sale.

Mike, of Milton, Ont., who did not reveal his last name or age, was at the show to sell his motorcycle. "I've never been here before or done this before, but my best offer so far was $2,700." Unfortunately that best offer was turned down.

Harley-Davidsons were the biggest attraction. Different sizes, shapes, and colors of bikes were shown throughout the event with good responses from many people.

Oohs and aahs were heard as a $140,000 Harley-Davidson was on a turntable with lights flashing on it.

"Forty-thousand dollars of the bike is pure gold," said Roscoa Smith, 26, from Newmarket, Ont. "I've been coming to this show for the past six years showing these type of bikes. I also do shows in Buffalo and Boston, but most of the shows are across Ontario."

Harleys weren't the only motorcycles shown. Dirt bikes, and four-wheelers were also a big attraction. With makes from Suzuki to Kawasaki, these bikes had many interested buyers.

Along with the bike, there is the bike wear. Leather is the fashion for the motorcycles, and boy was there a lot of it. Leather boots, vests, shorts and jackets were hot sellers, but for Gwen Mild and Ivy Cameron, there was a different best-seller. "Our chaps are the hottest item. They sell for $150."

'Forty-thousand dollars of the bike is pure gold.'

Mild says this show, held every year, is her biggest moneymaker compared to her company based in Scarborough. "It's a lot of trouble hauling but I've done this for 10 years and this has to be the best show yet."

There was also many T-shirts, stickers and extra accessories for sale through out the show.

Although bike wear is essential, you also need the correct parts to run the motorcycle. Helmets, tires, handle bars and other parts took up the outer aisles of the show. With more than 25 tables of parts and accessories many sales were made.

With motorcycles and bike wear, there is also the aspect of art.

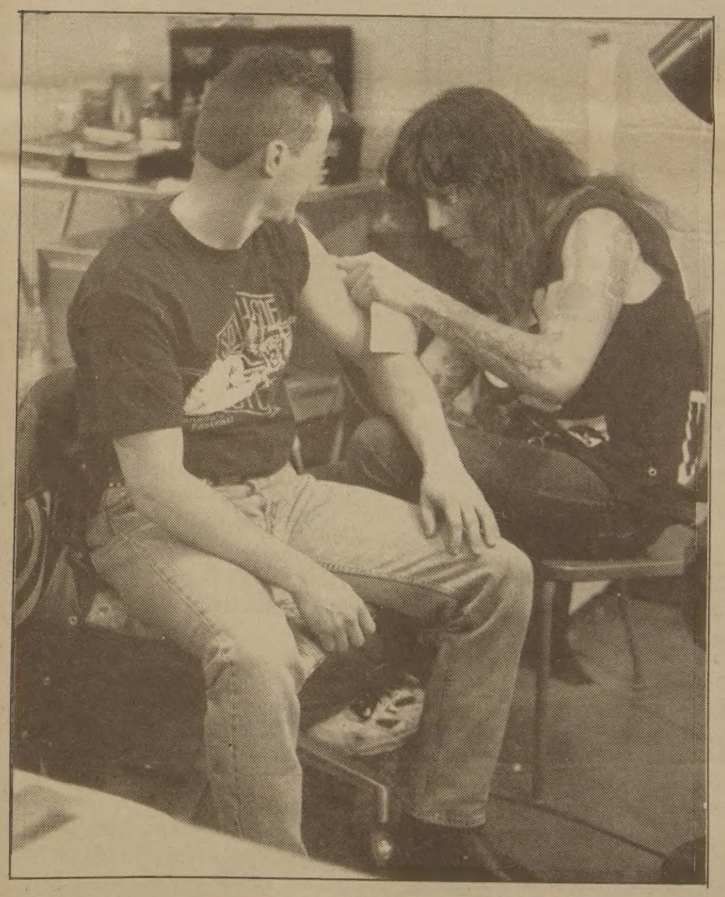
Head's Tattoos, of Niagara Falls, Ont., was the only booth that did tattoos on the spot. The only business that showed up in their field, did more than 15 tattoos throughout the two-day event. Prices ranged from $40 and up. The men and women behind the business were definitely busy.

Following the day of sightseeing, the convention ended with a tattoo contest. Men and women from across Ontario entered the contest. With more than 35 contestants, Head's Tattoos had three entries.

Rick Lavoe and Mike Scott entered in the overall male category and Lavoe also entered individual male category. Pia Neilsen entered in the overall female and individual female categories.

Lavoe won first place for individual male and third place for overall male. Neilsen won first place for overall female. Along with a plaque and a cheque, the winners won the applause of those in attendance.

"It's really embarrassing as a woman to enter with nothing more than a bikini on, but you're proud of the art that describes your likes and dislikes of our world," said Neilsen, just before entering the contest.



Dan Collings gets a tattoo by Jimbobway of Head's Tattoos.
Photo by Penni Toneguzzo

Roscoa Smith shows off a $140,000 Harley-Davidson motorcycle.
Photo by Penni Toneguzzo

Spinning your wheels, travelling the countryside

Test your racing skills

By OWEN BAGGOTT
Staff Writer

Bike racers are notorious for being fiercely competitive.

The intense competition of bike races can be intimidating for novice riders. A good way to try bike racing, in a less competitive environment, is by entering a citizen event mountain bike race.

With no race licenses required, citizen events are designed for mass appeal. There are no series, or category points at stake, so riders usually just show up for a fun ride. Because there are no skill categories in most citizen events, novice racers are given the opportunity to see how they stack-up against more established racers.

With more than 400 participants last year, *Ce n'est pas Paris-Roubaix, Paris to Ancaster* is one of the most popular, and fun citizen events in Ontario.

The race takes place on Sunday, April 14, the same day as the professional road classic in France, the Paris to Roubaix, or as it is nicknamed, "The Hell of the North."

The professional race is about 260 km long, and includes punishing cobblestone roads.

The Ontario version covers 60 km of rail trails, paved roads, single track, farm lanes and finishes with a punishing hill climb.

Some of the best racers in the province will finish the race in less than two hours. Others will take it a little easier, and finish the race in three, or even up to four hours.

For more information about citizen event mountain bike races, or bike racing in general, contact the Ontario Cycling Association at (416) 426-7242.

For information about the Paris to Ancaster race, contact The Special Event Company at (905) 521-0993

SPORTS CORNER

Athletic banquet gets 'good turnout'

By RANDY SYER
Staff Writer

And the Espy goes to....

Well it wasn't the Espy awards, which honors the top athletes of the world, Niagara College held its own version of the Espy's at the school's annual athletic banquet on March 26.

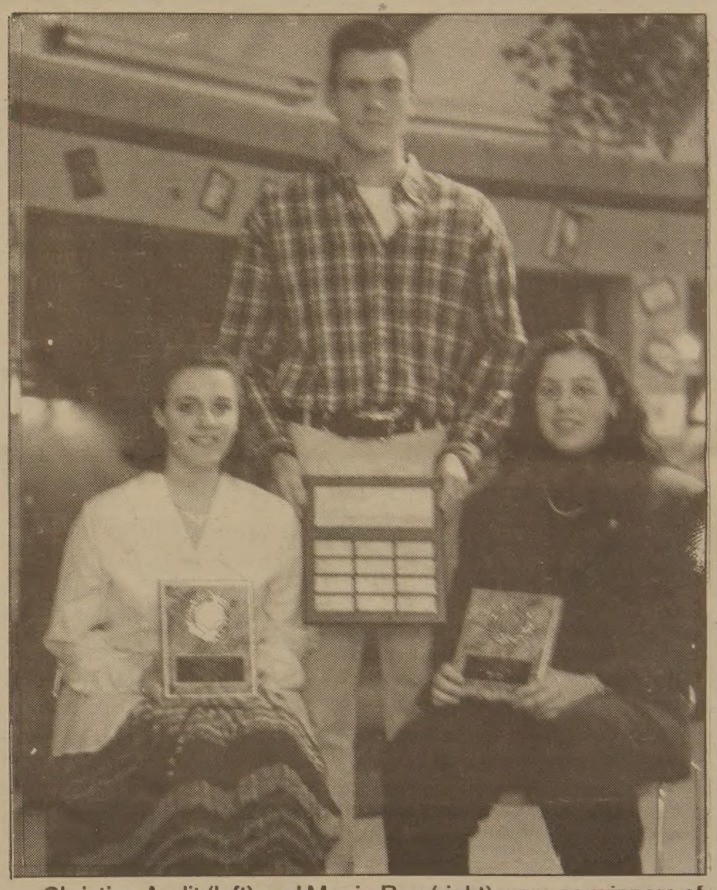
The big winners were Cindy Emery, female athlete of the year, and Pat Deschambeault, male athlete of the year.

Emery, of Port Colborne, has captured her second consecutive female athlete of the year award.

She's a second-year Recreation Leadership program student and teamed with Christine Audit to win the Ontario College Athletic Association (OCAA) and Canadian College Athletic Association (CCAA) women's doubles championships.

Emery, also a member of the women's volleyball team, has two OCAA gold medals for singles and mixed doubles badminton from the 1994-95 season.

Deschambeault, of Welland, is a first-year Tourism-Tours and Attractions program student.



Christine Audit (left) and Manie Roy (right) were co-winners of the female freshman athlete of the year award, and Keith Tenny won male freshman athlete of the year.
Photo by Jennifer Gibson

In his first year of play, he led a rookie men's volleyball team to a third place finish and was a first team all-star.

He was named player of the game at the league's annual all-star game and finished ninth in league scoring.

On the men's side, Keith Tenney of Niagara's men's basketball team won male freshman athlete of the year. The 6'6" centre from Keswick, Ont., averaged 15 points and 13 rebounds over the final six games of the season.

There was a tie for female freshman athlete of the year between badminton player Christine Audit and basketball player Manie Roy.

Audit, a first-year General Arts and Science program student, was teammates with Emery to win the OCAA and CCAA women's badminton doubles championships.

Roy, a first-year Nursing program student, is a forward on the woman's basketball team.

From Southampton, Ont., she led the women's basketball team in scoring with 15.4 points a game and was an OCAA second team all-star.

'Teams had 90 per cent of their players there'

Roy also won most valuable player (MVP) for the women's basketball team.

Derek Flindall, of St. Catharines, led the men's basketball team and for his efforts won MVP honors.

Other winners included Alexis Saddler, of Mississauga, Ont., who was the men's volleyball team's MVP, while Laura Chatterton, of St. Catharines, was MVP of the women's volleyball team.

Along with the individual winners, every athletic team was recognized for its efforts by receiving pins. Some members of their respective teams won Niagara letters by an accumulation of points for playing two or more sports.

Male and female athlete of the year winners are Pat Deschambeault (left) and Cindy Emery.
Photo by Jennifer Gibson

Pete Rylander, the college's coordinator of athletics and the master of ceremonies for the night, said he was "pleased" with the night's turnout. He said even minor sports such as touch football had a majority of players attend the dinner.

"All teams had at least 90 per cent of their people there and a couple of teams had all their people there, which was just great. It was a good turnout."

This was Rylander's final athletic banquet as he is retiring at the end of the term.

He said one of his highlights of this event was the look on the athletes' faces as they won their awards.

"I always think it's a highlight when we give out the athlete of the year awards and the freshman athlete of the year awards," said Rylander.

"I like to see the look on the kid's face when they win it because most of them don't know they won that type of prize so it's nice to see them win it."

Indoor soccer team settles for silver

By RANDY SYER
Staff Writer

On the silver lining of a gold medal.

The Niagara College men's indoor soccer team came close to winning a gold medal, but settled for a silver medal at the Ontario College Athletic Association (OCAA) Championships held at Conestoga College in Kitchener on March 22.

In Niagara's first game, Joe Magnotta, co-most valuable player (MVP), shut out Scarborough's Centennial College.

While Andy Borges put two goals past the Centennial goalkeeper to ensure a Niagara win. Borges was co-MVP as Niagara won the opener 2-0.

Sandro Perruzza, head coach of the men's indoor soccer team, said the turning point came after Magnotta stopped a penalty shot in an "amazing save."

"After scoring two goals in the first half, we played a solid defensive game limiting their (Centennial) shots and scoring chances," he said.

In their second game against the Royal Military College of Kingston, Ont., Niagara's John DiPietro and Luciano Berardacco scored singles in a 2-0 win, while goalie Mike Tapply got the shutout.

DiPietro and Tapply were named co-MVPs of the game.

"In the second half, they came out at us with everything they had and Mike Tapply stopped three or four point blank shots to earn the shutout," said Perruzza.

Niagara made it past the round robin and into the semi-final game where they faced the host team Conestoga College.

Both teams were tied at one after regulation time and an overtime period.

"We hit many posts and crossbars," said Perruzza. "We came very close to winning many times in overtime."

After going into a shootout, DiPietro scored the winner. Borges, Berardocco and Mike Vendetelli each had goals for the Knights.

In the OCAA championship game, Niagara faced Kingston's St. Lawerence College and lost 3-0.

"The team was demoralized due to a goal caused by a deflection which bounced over the goalie," said Perruzzo.

He said Niagara's top goal scorer Borges was not playing in the final because of torn ligaments which occurred in the semi-finals.

Rene Arnold was selected as the game's MVP in Niagara's last game.

Borges and Wayne Smith were named to the OCAA all-star team by the tournament committee.

Fly away with the Blue Jays

By RANDY SYER
Staff Writer

After a long cold winter, the baseball season started this week and Niagara College students can get an early look at the 1996 Toronto Blue Jays.

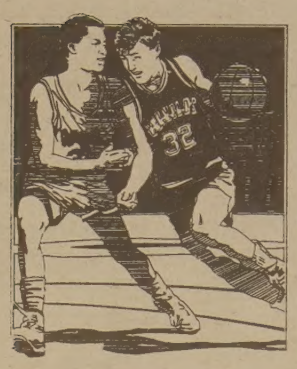
On Friday, April 12, the Student Administrative Council (SAC) is organizing a *Toronto Blue Jays Getaway!*

The Blue Jays are playing the Seattle Mariners. The cost is $15. The getaway includes a free street vendor hotdog. The bus leaves from the Welland campus at 5 p.m. The final cutoff date to purchase tickets is today at the SAC office.

SPORTS CORNER

Rookie reflects on past basketball season

'It was hard because you come from a high school where you've started all your life,'



By PENNI TONEGUZZO
Staff Writer

A Niagara College rookie basketball player says he knows what it's like to be a new recruit.

Chad Zinn, 20, of Ingersoll, Ont., has been playing basketball for five years. Realizing his love for the sport in Grade 9, he played as a forward and centre at the Ingersoll District Collegiate Institute in Ingersoll.

His decision in coming to Niagara College was not for schooling but for the sport of basketball.

"I thought of going to university, but then I got in touch with Randy Conlon (head coach for the men's basketball team) and we talked. I came out for a few tryouts in the summer time. That made me want to come here."

He says that being a rookie isn't all it's cracked up to be. "It was hard. It was difficult. It was hard because you come from a high school where you've started all your life and then you don't start, so it's like a reality check."

He finds the college game to be a little different from the high school game. He says the game is more demanding, rougher, faster paced and "you have to be physically fit to play college basketball."

A first-year student in the Law and Security Administration program, Zinn stands 6'4" and weighs 196 lbs. He says he hasn't decided about coming back to Niagara because he thinks he might want to move closer to home.

Zinn says all of the three coaches were positive, knew the game well and had "great attitudes" towards the team. He says he found his first year to be a learning experience for the team and for Conlon too because it was only his second year coaching.

Ending the season with six wins and 10 losses, the Niagara men's basketball team didn't make it to the playoffs, but Zinn says that those statistics don't show the hard work and dedication the team put into every game.

He says he doesn't want to play for a national team because he would have to gain 15 to 20 lbs. and be in better shape. "I think that's another reason why I didn't play much, because I wasn't physically fit."

Zinn says if he were coach he would ask everyone to put out "110 per cent" at every practice and that there would be funding for everyone on the team.

He says he is playing basketball because of his friends getting him involved and his old coaches whom he still looks up to. He used to play volleyball and in his spare time plays golf.

He names Shaquille O'Neal, Chris Webber and Anfernee Hardaway as his idols, but unlike them, he says he would not want to play for the NBA.

Zinn says he's in this sport for the fun of it. "I got through the first year of being a rookie, so hopefully next year will be better, if I come back."

Third year, a key year for Niagara men's basketball team

By RANDY SYER
Staff Writer

Third time around is a charm.

In his first year, the team struggled with a record of four wins and eight losses.

In his second year, they all but survived the famous "sophomore slump," finishing the year with a record of six wins and 10 losses.

For Randy Conlon, head coach of the Niagara Knights men's basketball team, this coming year is a "real defining year."

When he took over the team in May 1994, Conlon said his main goal was to build a program as opposed to building a team.

"There is a big difference when you build a team. You go year to year, whereas building a program you get a reputation."

Conlon only had one returning player from the previous year, and by getting the job so late in the year he said recruiting was tough.

"Recruiting was pretty much done for most schools by then," he said. "To take over a team where pretty much everyone was gone, there was a huge exodus. Then we had to go out and recruit."

Conlon sticks by recruiting and said to succeed at this level recruiting is important.

"If you look at the Humbers (Humber College, Etobicoke, Ont.) and the Sheridans (Sheridan College, Oakville, Ont.), the teams that consistently win, I don't think they are sitting back and waiting for people to come to them."

RANDY CONLON

Conlon didn't sit back and wait. He went out and recruited all-star guard Mike Hurley in his first year and recruited two big men — Keith Tenney and Jeff Eden in his second year. This year Conlon said he has his eye on four recruits that could help the team tremendously.

"Our goal was to recruit, not only sit back and deal with whoever shows up to the college," said Conlon, "but actually go out and get players."

In Conlon's first year, he and the Knights failed to make the playoffs, and coming into his second season the team lost only two players.

Although, Niagara had a sub .500 record for most of the season, Conlon said their playoff hopes were still alive until the St. Clair College game at home on Feb. 13. They played fundamentally sound basketball and took a 13-point lead into halftime but came out flat and lost by two.

"That (the St. Clair game) was the killer end of our season," said Conlon. "We stopped scoring . . . we just came apart and our defense went to sleep."

Conlon, 28, is a graduate of the Journalism-Print program at Niagara. He has been employed by the college for five years as a liaison officer and works in the Registrar's Office.

Conlon said the team lacked a true point guard and an on-court leader this year. He said mental lapses throughout the season and the lack of outside shooting early in the season prevented the team from reaching the next level.

"We only had one outside shooter (Hurley) and everyone knew who he was."

Conlon said he expected a berth into the Final Four and, although their season was a disappointment, his expectations were not too high.

"We had the problem this year of playing to the level of the teams we were playing against," said Conlon. "So no, my expectations were not too high. You've got to set your goals high and that's going to be our goal next year."

This week in sports history

April 4, 1974 - Hank Aaron ties Babe Ruth's all-time home run record by hitting his 714 home run.

April 5, 1984 - Kareem Abdul-Jabbar of the Los Angeles Lakers surpasses Wilt Chamberlain as the National Basketball Association's (NBA) all-time leading scorer at 31,419 points.

April 8, 1993 - The Green Bay Packers, of the National Football League (NFL), shop the free agent market and sign defensive lineman Reggie White.

April 9, 1993 - Mario Lemieux, of the Pittsburgh Penguins, scores five goals in one game against the New York Rangers to equal his club record.

April 10, 1956 - Montreal Canadiens beat the Detriot Red Wings to win the first of five straight Stanley Cups.

April 13, 1984 - Pete Rose becomes the first National Leaguer to get 4,000 hits when he doubled of Philadelphia Phillies pitcher Jerry Koosman.

April 15, 1991 - Earvin "Magic" Johnson becomes the NBA's all time career assist leader, surpassing Oscar Robinson, with his 9,887 assist.

April 17, 1987 - Julius Erving becomes the third player in NBA history too score 30,000 points. The other two are Kareem Abdul-Jabbar and Wilt "the Stilt" Chamberlain.

Sports world says goodbye to another legendary building

By RANDY SYER
Staff writer

Farewell O'Great Forum.

Known as the "shrine of hockey," the Montreal Forum has stood on the corner of Ste. Catherine and Atwater for 72 years.

Through this time the Forum has been the witness of some amazing milestones in hockey history. From the 24 Stanley Cups the Canadiens have won, to the "Rocket" Richard and Guy Lafleur eras.

Ah, yes if the walls could talk, I'm sure they would tell us some interesting stories.

However on March 12, the end of an era came in Montreal. This marked the day of the last game played at the Forum.

It was an emotional night, which saw a 10-minute standing ovation given to "Rocket" Richard when he was introduced. The passing of the torch from captain to captain was something that sent a chill down any hockey fan's spine.

If only National Hockey League (NHL) officials could have scheduled the final game in the Forum against the Toronto Maple Leafs and on a Saturday night, it would have been the ultimate dream for a true hockey fan.

The Montreal Canadiens have made the Forum just as the Forum made the Canadiens and as the saying on the Montreal dressing room wall says:

"To you from failing hands we throw the torch, be yours to hold it high."

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CULTURE

Spice 1 adds the wrong flavor to new album

By JASON YOUNG
Staff Writer

Spice 1, of California's bay area, is set to unleash his fourth CD, **1990-Sick,** on to the ever-changing rap scene.

The CD **1990-Sick** lunges out as Spice 1's fourth full-length album and he holds true with the lyrical innovation that sets him apart from other rap artists. This is what it takes for him to remain a favorite with his fans across the North American continent.

Spice 1 is best known for his song *Trigga Gots No Heart*, from the platinum-selling soundtrack to Menace II Society. However, **1990-Sick** is sure to bring his name into mainstream hip-hop's vernacular. Spice 1's distinctive West-Coast style is sure to ease him into the spotlight.

Spice 1 (the rapper formally known as Robert Lee Green Jr.), has brought us the goods with a collection of songs that could have a stronghold on the already saturated "gangsta" rap scene. The only drawback is Spice 1's tales of inner-city woes drown out the beats provided by his "partner in rhyme," MC Eight. Spice 1 has the skills, but his musical originality won't pay the bills.

Although he's blended a tasty concoction of soul, R&B and hip-hop, I was disappointed to find a remake of Run DMC's classic *Sucka MC's* thrown into his mixture. Rap's founding fathers deserve some respect, but there is a tolerance level.

There are still enough songs on **1990-Sick** to get Spice 1 the respect he deserves. *Ain't No Love* is a head-bobbing jam in which Spice relates his free-spirited life as a youth to the reality of today's youth. This is proof that is truthfully being delivered to his fans. Perhaps that's why Spice 1 has done work with artists like 2Pac and Wu-Tang Clan's Method Man. Songs such as *Snitch Killas* and *Can U Feel It* are sure to perk up the ears of most rap fans as well.

1990-Sick is pure poetry to the hip-hop aficionado, but to a first-time listener "da beats ain't fresh."

New Golden Boy CD not so golden

By PENNI TONEGUZZO
Staff Writer

This CD is far from golden.

Sin with Sebastian's **The Golden Boy** is a 12-song CD containing dance and technotronic sounds.

Recommending safe sex in the song *Put it on* shows Sin with Sebastian's understanding of our modern world.

Every song contains an opera-like voice in the background that takes the listener to a world that is unknown. Quite frankly, it is a world that I've never seen before and from the sounds of it, wouldn't want to.

Similar to the beats of George Michael and Real McCoy, Sin with Sebastian's beat is still one of a kind. Strangely enough, the beat is great, but the tone of voice is a total turn-off.

Every song seems to sound the same, which bores me to death.

It's obvious that this "golden boy" has a halo over his head. Whatever happened to spicing things up a bit?

The German boy has tried his best in our country and across the world, but in my opinion as a Canadian, this is just too psychotic. He must have been sleeping or on some kind of drug.

I give him a two out of 10 and both thumbs down.

Unique sound by B.C. singer

By JENN ELLIOTT
Staff Writer

Carolyn Arends, a Canadian singer/songwriter from Vancouver, B.C., has released her debut album **I Can Hear You**, and you can hear her unique voice distinctly here.

This 27-year-old has come a long way since the first song she wrote for Mother's Day when she was nine.

The CD **I Can Hear You** has a mixed sound of folk and pop, and is filled with rhyming, preachy and full-of-meaning lyrics.

Arends' debut album includes 11 tracks, all of which imply the significance of faith and God. This can clearly be heard in *Reaching* and *You Take My Soul By Storm.*

I Can Hear You begins with her first release,*This Is The Stuff.* Not only is it an introduction to the CD, but also an introduction to her life. The song describes certain events she has endured and lessons she has learned throughout her 27 years.

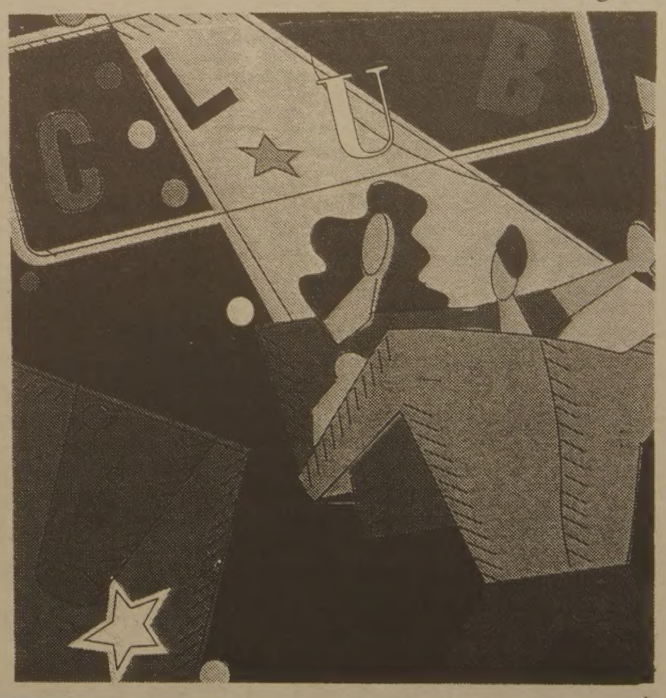
Arends' style and sound may be more appealing to a contemporary adult audience. It wasn't very entertaining to me.

If you like Amy Grant, you will appreciate the acoustics of Arends.

1000 Mona Lisas with a New Disease

By CHRISTINE TURMAINE
Staff Writer

After penetrating the airwaves with their own cover version of Alanis Morissette's song *You Oughta Know*, 1000 Mona Lisas have released **New Disease**, their first full-length CD. Before you scurry to spend your hard-earned Ontario Students Assistance Program (OSAP) money on it, be aware that the said cover song does not appear on this intriguing CD.



For all those who aren't Morissette fans, don't let their cover song turn you off. **New Disease** is a compelling, yet rowdy CD (perfect for partying). The songs are fairly short and sweet, averaging 2:10 a song.

The majority of songs are hard and fast (perhaps a little demented); however, the track *Change and Decipher* captivated me. The second it began, it reminded me of The Doors' hit *The Severed Garden*; although indisputably, their sound is a far cry from that of The Doors.

My opinion? **New Disease** is not an indispensable CD, but it is undeniably coooool.

Oh, and there is a hidden track (also a cover song).

Anyone for Paul McCartney?

Explicit Click

By ROBERT HALLETT
Staff Writer

The Click is here.

With their second full-length CD **Game Related,** The Click have come a long way. From Northern California comes E-40, his sister Sugar T., their brother D-Shot, and their cousin B-Legit, a true family affair.

After eight years of independently hustling their records on the street, The Click has established a solid foundation of fans which will get stronger now with this new release distributed by Jive Records.

This album takes the Vallejo sound even deeper, displaying a variety of musical styles from old soul and R&B, to rap and funk. The song, *We Don't F*** Wit Dat* is an explicit all-out funk jam that highlights the live instrumentation.

Scandalous, parlays the crew's layers of lyrics over a mellow, Zapp-induced groove. *Hurricane* is the first single from the album. It is here Sugar T. flexes her singing in addition to her rap verse.

The CD, released through BMG Canada, is a great example of musical talent.

She Stole My Beer at After Hours

By JAMES M. COOTE
Staff Writer

Oh, no. She Stole My Beer at After Hours.

The Vancouver-based band She Stole My Beer has been in the business of making music for almost 10 years and is still waiting for its big break.

Chad Chilibeck, Tom Taylor and David Hughes have been playing together in front of audiences since they got out of high school.

"We got started because of the chicks and free beer," said Chilibeck.

"We all had day jobs and played every couple of months. Then we started adding our own stuff and people liked it, and we went from there."

The band has six members: Geoff Hicks on drums, Franco Deligenti on percussion, Jordan White on keyboard, Hughes on base and Chilibeck and Taylor, both on guitar and vocals.

Two of the band's albums are already in stores. **Sparks Off The Guardrail,** their first album, released independently, came out in 1992 and has sold about 5,000 copies. The second album, **Mule**, hit the shelves in July 1995 and was distributed by MCA records.

The group is working on its third album and hopes to have MCA take care of the distribution again. "We have to deliver the product and see if they like it," said Chilibeck.

"This next record may be a little more commercially viable than the last," said Taylor.

'We got started because of the chicks and free beer.'

Because the record company takes about 13 per cent from the sale of each disc, the band doesn't make much from the distribution.

Chilibeck laughed as he said, "We tried to pay ourselves every two weeks like normal people, but then we ran out of money."

Their paycheque comes in the form of royalties and proceeds from their constant tours. They recently finished a 24-date tour as the opening act for Colin James.

The hardest part about touring is "battling boredom," said Chilibeck.

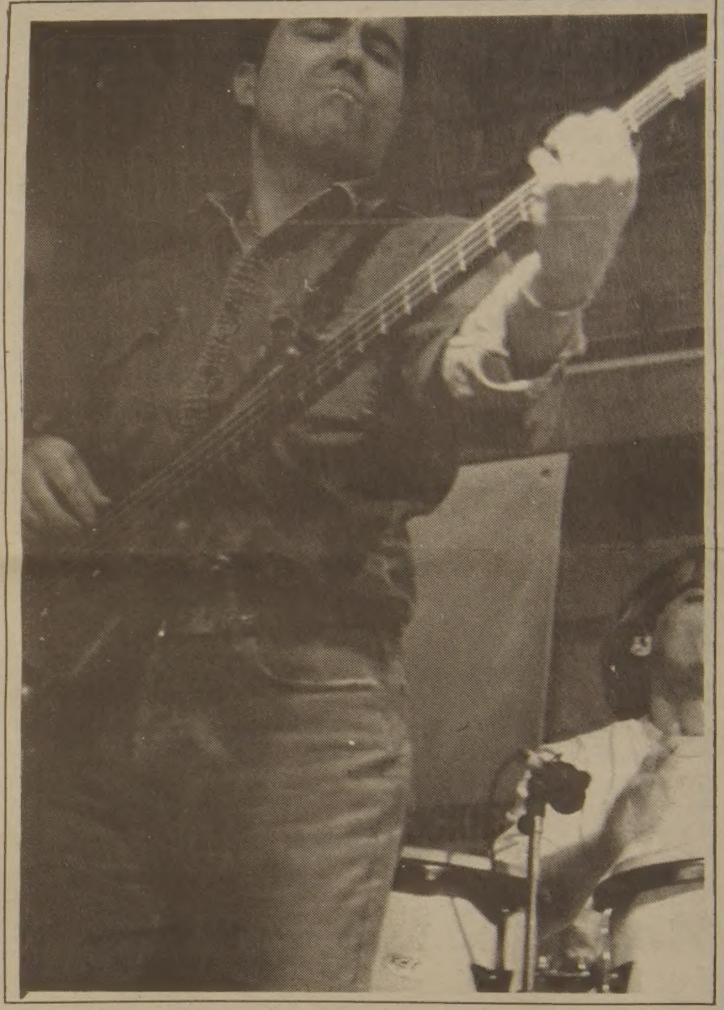
If one member gets frustrated with another member, "we just break off into our own little groups and 'slag' on each other," said White.

"The thing about touring is you always talk about doing things differently, but you end up doing things exactly the same way," said Diligneti. "It's hard to have a normal life."

She Stole My Beer finished its tour March 30 with a show at the Horseshoe in Toronto, and then back to Banff for a show April 4, and then it's back home to Vancouver for a little break.

Tom Taylor (left) and Chad Chilibeck groove at After Hours in one of the last performances of their Canadian-wide tour.

Photo by James M. Coote



David Hughes, bassist, plays along with attitude.

Photo by James M. Coote

Life in Hell

By OWEN BAGGOTT
Staff Writer

Life in Hell is a comic strip about living in Los Angeles, Calif., by the creator of *The Simpsons*, Matt Groening.

The Big Book of Hell contains Groening cartoons drawn between 1980 and 1988. Those who read Life in Hell in *Now Magazine* a few years ago will appreciate reading their favorite comic again, and will enjoy reading the ones they've missed or have forgotten.

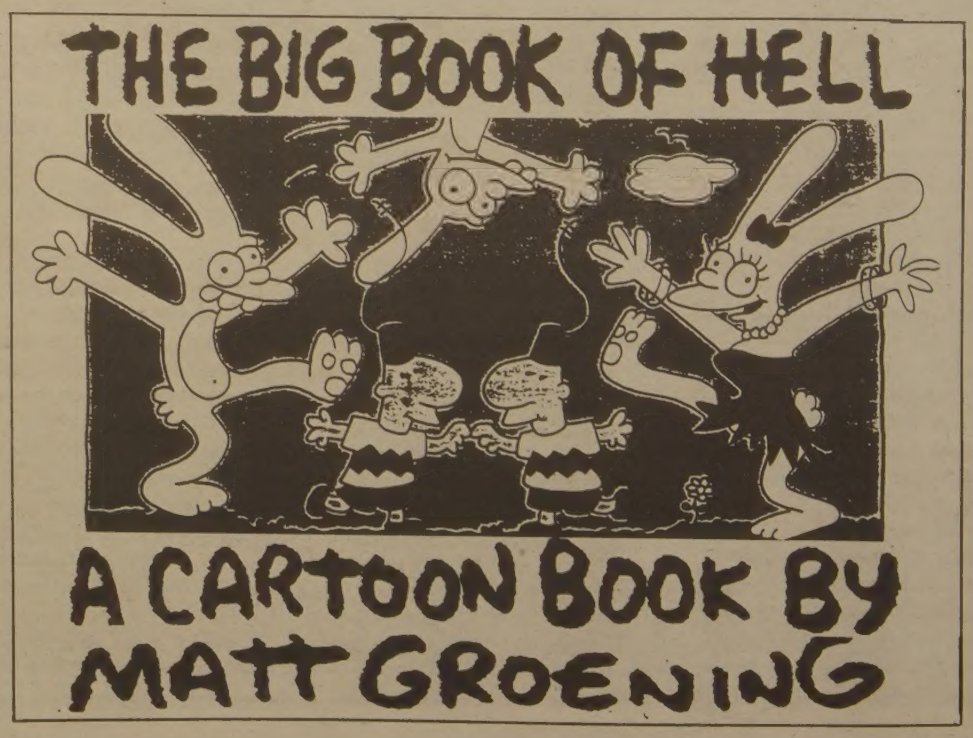
Simpsons fans who enjoy Groening's off-the-wall humor will love this book.

By reading Life in Hell, one can see how *The Simpsons* was born from big-eared, huge-eyed rabbits with a major over-bite.

The adventures of Binky, Sheba, Bongo, Akbar and Jeff explore the issues of love, employment, education, sexuality and family with the same slanted vision that Groening brings to *The Simpsons*.

Life in Hell has recurring phrases and charming characters just like *The Simpsons*. The characters in Life in Hell use language like "Let's make love like crazed weasels."

There is one important difference between *The Simpsons* and Life in Hell, though. Groening is able to explore sensitive issues further and push the limits of acceptability in the comic strip.



Aboriginal office popular with native students

By JASON YOUNG
Staff Writer

There's something glowing in the Simcoe building and it's the bright future of the Aboriginal Education Access Office.

The aboriginal office has plans that will increase its popularity with native students at Niagara College and appeal to prospective students across southern Ontario. These plans will be partly funded by the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce.

With money from the CIBC, the aboriginal office has hired an aboriginal development officer who is working with the admission and access division at the college.

The officer will go out to the native community and get responses from past and future applicants of Niagara. If the officer detects any problems pointed out by the applicants, issues would then be reported to the Aboriginal Education Management Circle (AEMC).

The AEMC is a partnership between the native circle and the college's Board of Governors. The AEMC can deal with any identified problem areas and turn them into positive solutions.

"I see that as positive," says Wendy Johnson-Martin, manager of the aboriginal office. "My job is to get more students using the facilities (aboriginal student office/lounge) and get more students into the college. The more support you get, the easier it is for you to succeed and that's what we're trying to do."

The office has received funding from the Indian Studies Support Program. The program provides funds to implement a Native Social Service Worker program at the college. It will run under the base curriculum of the regular course but contain more native content. The course will be ready for September. "There will be some heavy recruiting for that course," says Johnson-Martin.

'the more support you get, the easier it is for you to succeed,'

Applications have been forwarded to the Aboriginal Education and Training Strategy as well. "We have five proposals sitting on the table and we're just waiting to hear back from them," she said.

The funding would be for another full-time course, beginning in September, along side the Native Cook course, already available at the college.

The funding will also provide an increase in services at the office such as resource materials for students.

"A lot of students come into the office being either native or non-native who want resource materials for projects and we want to be able to provide that information accurately and factually," said Johnson-Martin.

On top of that, the aboriginal office has applied for a native curriculum design officer and a cultural liaison officer. The curriculum design officer would work with different programs at the college and offer suggestions. The cultural liaison officer would interact with the students and provide various aboriginal workshops.

"Niagara College has international programs as well as aboriginal. This, in turn, creates diversity within cultures at the college," said Johnson-Martin. "If everybody understands each other then it will be a better place."

Ambulance students hurt by OPSEU strike

By JENNIFER GIBSON
Staff Writer

United we stand, divided we fall.

There was growing tension between some of the ambulance students and their opinions on what the Ontario Public Service Employees Union (OPSEU) strike did or didn't do for them.

When most people saw the OPSEU strikers picketing they thought of money-hungry government employees. The strikers saw themselves trying to cushion the blow Ontario Premier Mike Harris is throwing at them.

The punch hit the working world, but also students of the Ambulance and Emergency Care program at Niagara College.

"It's affected us in the practical aspect in that we couldn't complete our clinicals because we couldn't cross the picket," said Jen Cadman, 19, of Tillsonburg, Ont.

Rick Chandler, Ambulance and Emergency Care program co-ordinator, said the emergency services still had coverage, but they only took emergency calls. There were no hospital transfers and the ambulance students couldn't cross the picket lines.

'they're securing a better future.'

"It's not that they (ambulance crews) wouldn't take the students, but they asked us not to send (students) during the strike," said Chandler.

With a 67 per cent vote to strike by the union workers, it explained the reasoning behind the students' reservations about the strike.

One student, who wished to remain anonymous, said the strike was a waste of time. "All the government had to do was sit back and save $9 million a day."

Another anonymous student said Harris wants to cut out essential services and that isn't the way to save money. "If he starts privatizing everything it's going to blow up in his face."

The ambulance bases in Niagara Falls, Fort Erie and Welland weren't accepting students and these three areas take the majority of placements.

The students must get at least 160 hours of clinical placement during academic terms and, after April, 160 hours at their placement.

April Gelinas, 19, of Wainfleet, Ont. said, "we're losing out big time, losing touch with what's going on."

Everyone else was getting a lot more experience while the rest were falling behind, she said.

Chandler said the students needing hours will be transferred to the St. Catharines ambulance base. Most of the students who need hours have started to go home to do their placements.

Asked to comment on his feelings about the strike Chandler said, "I can't .... I deal with the management as well as with the crews (strikers)."

"I support what they did," said Cadman, "because they're securing a better future for us."

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'Big-time' player would help

By RANDY SYER
Staff Writer

"New coaching, new team, new attitude."

This is just one of many marketing schemes Jeff Eisenberg, vice-president of sales and marketing, used this year for the National Hockey League's Buffalo Sabres.

He was the featured speaker at a seminar held in the Simcoe building March 26.

Eisenberg formerly worked 12 years in Major League Baseball with the Philadelphia Phillies and Milwaukee Brewers before joining the Sabres in June 1995.

He said his main goal is to get fans out to watch the games, but it would be easier if Buffalo had a "big-time" player.

"I wish we had Wayne Gretzky or Mark Messier. Obviously they do well for drawing people," he said. "But with any product, you take your assets and play with your strengths. My job is to take what we have going for us and sell that."

Eisenberg said one of Buffalo's strengths is their all-star player Pat LaFontaine.

"From what I've seen from Patty (LaFontaine) is that no one is easier to market than Patty LaFontaine," Eisenberg said. "He's by far our star promotion. People love him, he's very deep into the community and he's wonderful to have around."

Other than LaFontaine, Eisenberg said he used the French Connection (Gilbert Perreault, Rene Robert, Richard Martin) as another marketing idea to bring in more fan support.

"It was questionable at the time. There was some difference in opinion when we were planning the retirement of the French Connection."

He said this was the first time the French Connection was back together in Buffalo and there was "a huge rush of emotional."

"They were still close enough and they're so big in the organization, by far the best players we've ever had," he said. "It was almost a love affair for that week they were in town."

Throughout the presentation, organized by students Jeff Young, Jason Leonard and Jason Allen, Eisenberg discussed how to market and the importance of promoting and selling the product in a business.

The economics of sports are changing drastically and now more than ever he knows he's in the public eye, said Eisenberg.

"People are always going to make observations about you because you are so visible," he said. "But you know what, say what you want to say just make sure you spell it right."

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Corrections

In the Friday, March 22, 1996 edition of Niagara News there were several errors of fact.

On page 3, in the report "Fitness to Wellness class planting seeds for change", in naming the six dimensions of wellness, we should have said social, environmental, emotional, physical, spiritual and mental. Incorrect information appeared.

In the front page story "Usually verbose VP silent", in quoting Dave Robinson, co-ordinator of the post-diplomas Interactive Multimedia program, we should clarify his comment regarding "VPs tend to run in all directions, especially when they don't get the job" referred to his experiences in the manufacturing industry, not Niagara College.

On page 18, in the report "Juno Award winner speaks of native issues" the first-year student in the Social Worker program who hoped to attend the performance of Lawrence Martin, should have been identified as Gail Stup. An incorrect name appeared.

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Revenue minister thanks student volunteers

By JENNIFER GIBSON
Staff Writer

Niagara College students were recently praised by a top federal government official.

Minister of National Revenue Jane Stewart visited Brock University on March 22 to thank and congratulate college and university volunteers from the tax clinic programs for their participation in the clinic.

Stewart's speech portrayed the volunteering efforts as "really commendable."

"It gives the students a sense of accomplishment, community spirit and effort."

The Volunteer Tax Clinic program was initiated at Niagara by Leo Tiberi, director of information and computer technology, and taken over in January by Heather Smith, co-operative education consultant at the college's Employment Services at the Welland campus.

Of the more than 20 participants in the program, only five attended the revenue minister's speech. These students, as well as the Brock students, were recognized for "taking the initiative" to help others in the community "who don't realize they receive tax credits," Stewart said.

Sometimes it's easier to accept help from a community volunteer rather than a government employee or accountant, she added.

After her speech, Stewart awarded a letter of recognition to each institution showing the high regard in which she held the schools.

"The initiative taken by both institutes shows forward thinking, creativity, appropriate niches and responsibility for the students," Stewart said.

Dan Patterson, president of Niagara College, accepted the award thanking Brock for hosting the event and showing his appreciation for the opportunity to give the students hands-on experience.

"Our goal is student success, and part of their success is hands-on practical work," Patterson said.

Terry White, president of Brock University, accepted his award, congratulated his students, and said he was glad the program was such a success and hopes it continues next year and expands into other schools.

Among those attending the event were (left) Niagara College President Dan Patterson, Frank Dipietro, Paul Martin, both volunteers, federal Revenue Minister Jane Stewart, Rhonda Corris, Alana Jagoe, Arthur McGlashan, all three volunteers, Margaret McRoberts, EFILE co-ordinator, and Leo Tiberi, the college's director of information and computer technology. Absent was Heather Smith, co-operative education consultant at Niagara.

Photo by Jennifer Gibson

Tax clinic is a success

By JENNIFER GIBSON
Staff Writer

Volunteers are given an extension.

For the first time this year, the Volunteer Income Tax program — initiated by Margaret McRoberts of Revenue Canada — had been brought into a college and Niagara College was "proudly" that college.

Leo Tiberi, director of Information and Computer Technology at the college, decided to bring the program here.

Since then, Heather Smith has taken over the project and made a success out of an idea.

"We're the pioneers," said Smith. "We're very proud to be the first college to hold this program."

Smith said she would like to thank Jim Ross for loading Tax '95 into the computers at the last minute, as well as all of the volunteers who helped out with the program.

About 20 volunteer students have completed more than 125 returns so far.

Jane Stewart, the federal minister of national finance, extended the program until March 29. The office was open until today for students to get their returns back.

"Everything has run very smoothly, very professionally, with the respect and confidentiality that each return deserves," Smith said.

"The goal is a repeat performance."

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Students learn beer marketing

By OWEN BAGGOTT
Staff Writer

Beer was the main topic of discussion at Niagara College on March 19.

The marketing seminar class invited J. Kevin Meens, vice-president of sales and marketing at Sleeman Brewing in Guelph, to the college.

Meens led a seminar on new product development. However, his seminar was focused more on marketing trends, and how Sleeman used those trends to become successful, than it was focused on product development.

"Sleeman couldn't compete with the larger breweries, even if we wanted to," said Meens. Because of Sleeman's smaller capacity, the company focuses on the niche market, he said. "We market heritage, process, quality."

Meens said Sleeman gained its market share by creating a premium product, and by following the counter-trend. "Whatever the big guys do, we do the opposite."

Meens said to run a successful business one needs to "become a leader not a manager. Leaders see opportunity, and create change. Managers manage in a box."

Meens said managers and employees need to "get out of the box and start thinking."

He said students interested in marketing should read books by Trout, Popcorn and Nesbitt.

Meens said Sleeman has been paying attention to the trends of information, decentralization, environmental protection, universal and international brands, increased leisure time, cocooning, health, the increasing power of the female market and fantasy.

"Look at all the businesses that are catering to our fantasies."

Meens said people buy products like Jeep Cherokees not because they ride off-road, but because "they want to think that they could go off-road."

Fire safety presentation for ECE

By MELISSA LABBE
Staff Writer

Second-year Early Childhood Education program students are learning all about fire safety for children.

The topic of a presentation given to the child health and well-being classes on March 28 was kits entitled Play Safe! Be Safe!

Paul Schwartzman, of Rochester, N.Y., helped to develop the kits for BIC Canada. He travels throughout Canada and the United States giving instructional presentations on how to effectively use the kits. Schwartzman is the president of Fireproof Children.

The kits consist of a video, a deck of keep-away cards, a teacher's manual, laminated cards for discussion and stickers. BIC, which underwrites the presentations, provides a free kit to each of the audience members. Schwartzman says the kits can also be ordered from BIC for a nominal fee.

Over the year, he gives three to four presentations in Canada and nine in the United States. So far this year he has been to Markham and Winnipeg, and plans to go to Alberta and British Columbia.

Originally, Niagara College was not a stop on Schwartzman's schedule. It was the initiative of Kathy Fischer, one of the child health and well-being teachers, that prompted Schwartzman's visit.

Fischer and Schwartzman met "on a whim" at the National Association for Education of Young Children Conference where both were exhibitors.

He says his usual audience is preschool and day-care providers.

Schwartzman says the goal of the presentations is "to train trainers.

"The overall goal is to provide material and means for teaching life-saving skills from fire."

The kits provide ideas and materials to "subtly" teach three to five-year-old children about fire safety.

"Life-saving skills have to be taught by practice, repetition and rehearsal."

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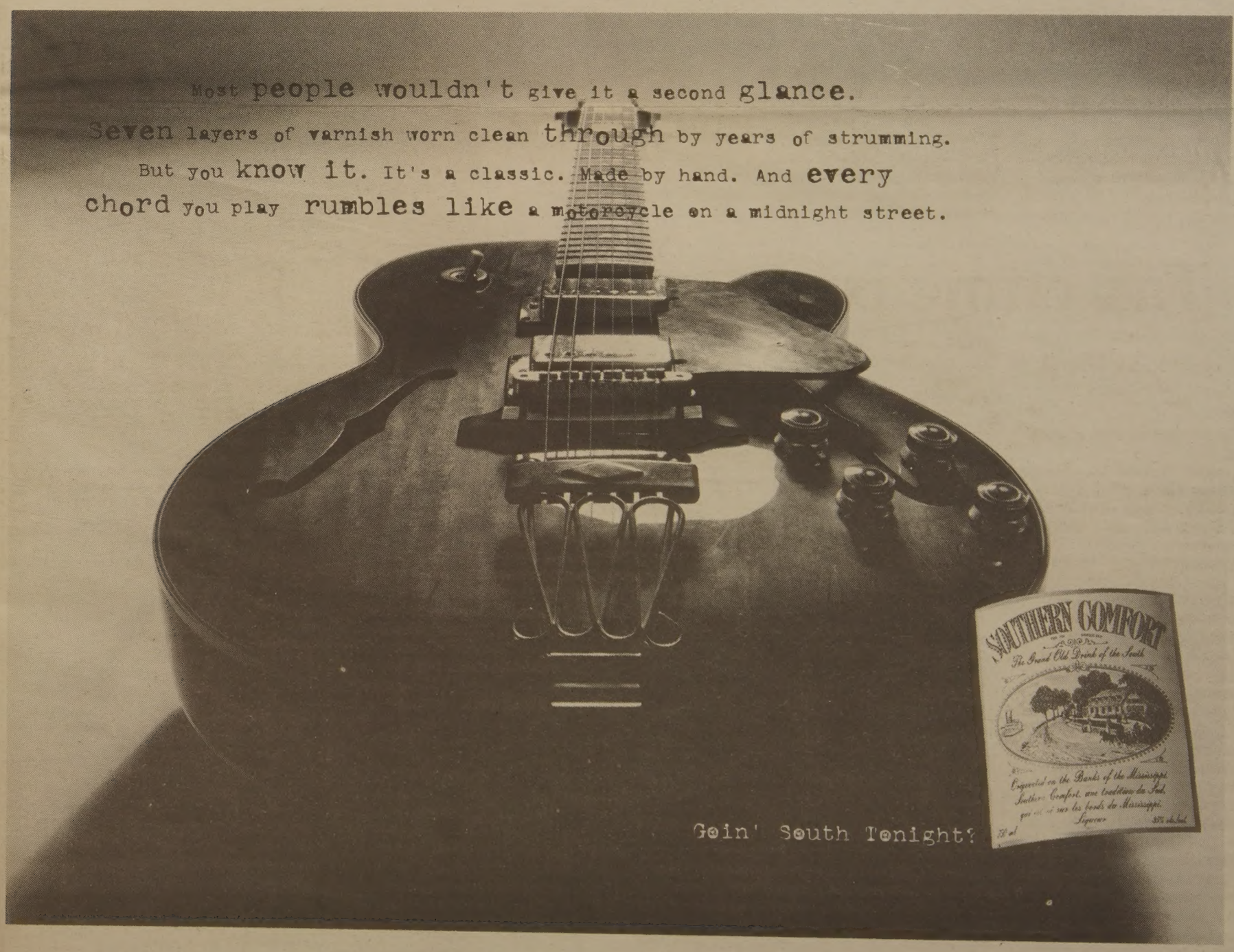
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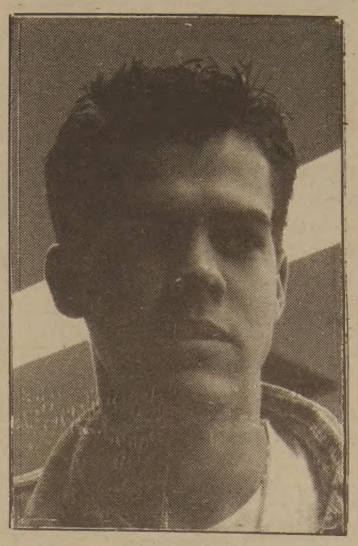


BRENT JOHNSON

By JENN ELLIOTT and HEATHER BURTON
Staff Writers

"Everyone has pictures on theirs. Ours are cheezy," says Johnson, 21, a first-year Broadcasting, Radio, Television and Film program (BRTF) student at Niagara College.

MELINDA JONAH

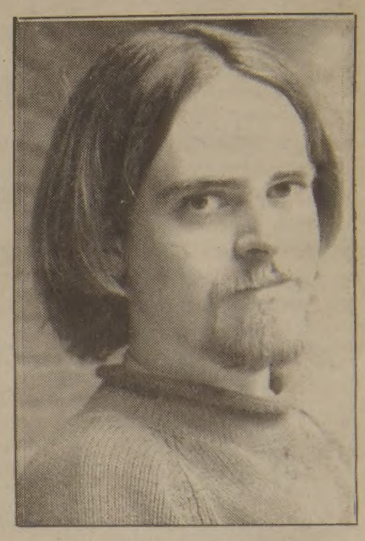
Melinda Jonah, 28, is a second-year Accounting program student at the college. Jonah says, "They should have your photo on them because anybody can take it and say 'Yeah, I'm a student.'"

DEREK CRANE

Derek Crane, 19, Human Relations program student, says "They're kind of brutal compared to the universities. We had photo I.D. in high school."

HEIDI RESCHKE

"They're a waste of money to print up. What do we use them for besides the library?" says the 20-year-old, second-year Accounting program student at Niagara College.



MARC LOUGHEED

Marc Lougheed, a 21-year-old second-year film student, says "They should at least have a picture on it or at least be laminated."

He referred to the student cards as "dinky little things."

Niagara is missing the picture

By HEATHER BURTON
Staff Writer

Mohawk College in Hamilton has them, Conestoga College in Kitchener does too, but photo identification may not be in the cards for Niagara College students.

About 7,000 full-time, fee-paying students at Mohawk receive photo identification, says Barb Moore, administrative assistant to the dean of students. The charge of student cards is absorbed into tuition fees, she says.

Bruce Middleton of the Registrar's office at Conestoga College, said the college just began implementing photo identification for its students this year.

Of the 4,000 full-time students, just the 1995-start students have photo identification. Middleton says the college's goal is to make new cards for the entire student population.

Niagara College, a school of similar size to Conestoga with a full-time student population of 5,000, has not implemented student photo identification.

Until Niagara becomes more technologically oriented, the need may not arise, says Brigitte Chiki, director access and student success. "Cost is what is prohibitive," says Chiki.

The proposed ITC Digitized Card Imaging System to produce the identification cards costs about $20,000.

The system consisting of a video camera, computer and software, enables schools to create a "one-card system," says Scott Gallagher, sales representative at ITC Systems in Toronto.

ITC Systems offers a student card which can be used in places ranging from the cafeteria to the library. "The possibilities are endless," said Gallagher.

Committees at Niagara College researched the process of creating a new identification card before the 1995 September term began, but the issue isn't a priority at this time, says Nicki Howcroft, manager of systems development at the college.

Transferal of student cards isn't an issue because "one of the benefits of being a mid-size college — you know who your students are," said Chiki.

Student cards are important as they are needed in the Learning Resource Centre, examinations and campus security purposes.

"Unless it's (changing identification) a really grave problem, I'd rather spend money on other stuff for students," says Chiki.

Networking needed to succeed in job market

By BRAD MOSCATO
Staff Writer

The workplace is going through a dramatic shakeup.

The unemployment rate for 15- to 24-year-olds is about 15 per cent, which is almost twice the national average. To make matters worse, Statistics Canada estimates about 200,000 new graduates will emerge from Canada's colleges and universities into an already overcrowded job market.

With the requirements of today's labor market changing almost daily, employers are looking for — and they need — people who can adapt quickly.

"The whole focus of a job search now is what you can do for the employer," said Janet Forfar, a graduate employment officer for Niagara College.

If you're looking for work, you should develop new skills and have the ability to apply your present skills in a variety of situations, she said.

Already, more than 30 per cent of Canadian jobs involve non-traditional forms of work such as part-time jobs, temporary jobs and work that is contracted out. At the same time, the computer revolution has been wiping out thousands of jobs even as computers open up worlds of opportunity.

With this in mind, Forfar said that employers are therefore looking for people who are flexible, competitive, energetic and assertive.

"Companies need someone who can continue to learn and grow," she said.

Once you've identified your skills, the next step is to package them in a quality, up-to-date resume that accurately reflects these skills and abilities, said Wayne Sadlak, co-operative education consultant for Niagara College employment services.

Many employers don't advertise jobs, so it is important to network your skills, he said.

"Networking is probably one of the most effective ways to find a job; therefore, job searchers should draw on all their resources," Sadlak said, adding that networks are built slowly, one conversation at a time.

Downsizing, new technology, more home-based businesses, increased part-time work, an aging population and global competition have all become part of today's working world. Students must be aware that change will present new and exciting challenges and opportunities, he said.

"On average, people should expect to change jobs anywhere from three to six times throughout their working life.

"This was certainly unheard of 10 years ago, but will become a trend for the future," Sadlak said.

Both Forfar and Sadlak stressed the need for lifelong learning to ultimately be competitive in the job market.

Career counsellors advise successful graduates to target employers with effective resumes and cover letters; to develop skills and gain experience through summer and part-time employment, volunteer work, and co-op programs; to research the employer and match what students have to offer and what the potential employer will offer and require of students; and, finally, to network with people who can assist them in their career search.